

UNIT 1

PLACES

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Key Reading Skills	Scanning for numbers; using a T-chart
Additional Reading Skills	Understanding key vocabulary; previewing; reading for main ideas; reading for details; scanning to find information; working out meaning; scanning to predict content; taking notes; making inferences; synthesizing
Language Development	Nouns, verbs, and adjectives

ACTIVATE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Look at the photo and answer the questions.

- 1 Where is the place in the photo? Is it in the city or in the country?
- 2 Is it similar to or different from the place where you live? How?
- 3 Would you like to live here? Why or why not?



READING 1

PREPARING TO READ

1 UNDERSTANDING KEY VOCABULARY You are going to read a report about cities. Read the sentences. Write the words in bold next to the definitions on page 17.

- 1 More than 8 million people live in New York City. New York City has the largest **population** in the United States.
- 2 The city hired an **expert** to help decide on the best place for the new shopping mall. He knows a lot about planning big cities.
- 3 People who live in big cities often visit the **countryside** so they can get away from the crowds and breathe some fresh air.
- 4 Studying in another country gives students the **opportunity** to learn about new cultures and see how other people live.
- 5 The sky was so gray with air **pollution** from cars and factory smoke that I couldn't see the sunset.
- 6 Shanghai is thousands of years old, but it is also a very **modern** city. It is filled with tall glass buildings and bright lights.
- 7 Big cities usually have a lot of **traffic**, especially when people drive to work in the morning and drive home in the evening.
- 8 Washington, D.C., is the **capital** of the United States. It is where the U.S. government is run.





- a _____ (n) the cars, trucks, and other vehicles using a road
- b _____ (n) land that is not in towns or cities and may have farms and fields
- c _____ (adj) designed and made using the most recent ideas and methods
- d _____ (n) the number of people living in a place
- e _____ (n) damage caused to water, air, and land by harmful materials or waste
- f _____ (n) the most important city in a country or state; where the government is
- g _____ (n) someone who has a lot of skill in or a lot of knowledge about something
- h _____ (n) a chance to do or experience something good

2 **PREVIEWING** Look at the title, subheadings, photos, and infographic in the report on pages 18–19. Then answer the questions.

1 What does *mega* mean?

- a very busy b very good c very big

2 Are there more or fewer megacities today than in the past? _____

3 Which city has the most people?

- a Cairo b Delhi c Tokyo

3 After you read the report, check your answers to Exercise 2.

REPORT

RISE OF THE MEGACITIES

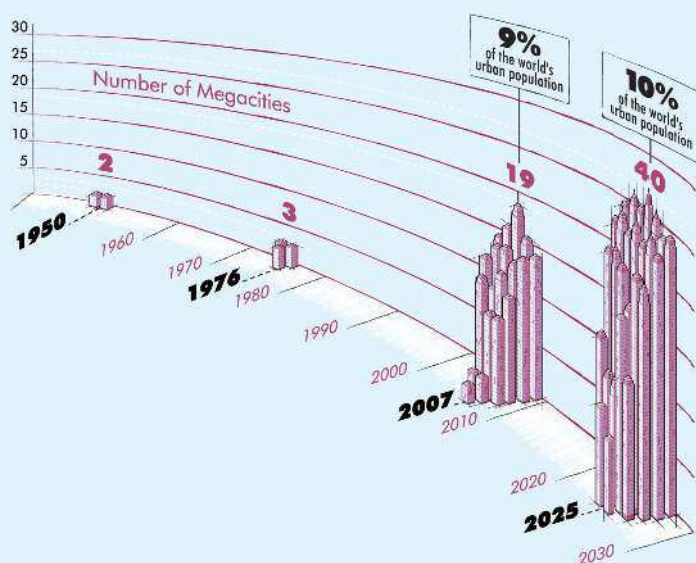
CITIES GET BIGGER AND PEOPLE GET CLOSER

“
Today, more than 35 cities in the world are megacities.
 ”

- 1 Megacities are defined as cities with more than ten million people. The number of megacities is growing very quickly. In the 1950s, there were only two megacities in the world.
- 2 Today, 12% of the world's urban¹ **population** lives in megacities. Studies show that there will be eight billion people in the world in 2025. **Experts** say that there will be 40 megacities.
- 3 Today, more than 35 cities in the world are megacities. 75% are in Asia, South America, and Africa. More and more people around the world are leaving their homes in the **countryside** and moving to the city.
- 4 Many megacities have better **opportunities**, such as more jobs and a choice of schools and universities.

Megacities are also exciting places to live—there are lots of different people, languages, and restaurants, and there are many interesting things to do.

- 5 However, megacities have problems, too. The cities are very big, and this can cause problems like **pollution** or poor housing².



TOKYO, JAPAN ▶

37.8 MILLION

- 6** Tokyo is an exciting **modern** city in the east of Japan. There are lots of jobs because most big companies in Japan are in Tokyo. It is also an excellent place to study—20% of Japan's universities are in the city. However, Tokyo is very busy, and the **traffic** is very bad. More than 8.7 million people use the subway every day.



CAIRO, EGYPT ▶

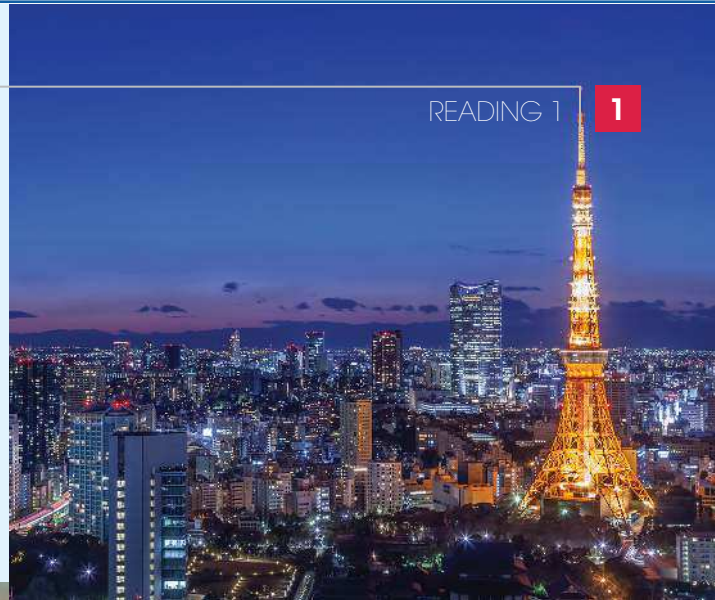
16.9 MILLION

- 8** Cairo is the **capital** of Egypt, and it is the largest city in Africa. Cairo has important car and film industries. The city is the center of many government offices and has many universities, one of which is over 1,200 years old.

¹**urban** (adj) relating to towns and cities

²**housing** (n) places to live, such as apartments or houses

³**monuments** (n) old buildings or places that are important in history



READING 1 **1**

◀ DELHI, INDIA

25 MILLION

- 7** Delhi is in the north of India. It has many beautiful monuments³, interesting museums, and modern restaurants. There is an exciting mix of different cultures in the city, and there are four official languages: Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, and English. However, there are not enough houses in some parts of Delhi. This means that many people live in large slums in the city.



19

WHILE READING



4 READING FOR MAIN IDEAS Read the report on pages 18–19. Write *T* (true) or *F* (false) next to the statements. Then correct the false sentences.

- _____ 1 There are more megacities now than in 1950.
- _____ 2 There are many opportunities to study in megacities.
- _____ 3 Many people leave the countryside and move to a city.
- _____ 4 Almost 35 cities in the world are megacities.
- _____ 5 Most megacities are in Europe.
- _____ 6 Finding a house or an apartment to live in is easy in megacities.

5 READING FOR DETAILS Read the report again. Write the words in the correct place in the table. Some words may fit in more than one place.

mix of different people interesting places to visit
 lots of jobs traffic good place to study housing problem
 important industries busy trains

Tokyo


Delhi

Cairo

SKILLS

SCANNING FOR NUMBERS

When scanning a text, readers look for specific information and details. Do not read the whole text. Readers often scan a text to find important numbers, percentages, and dates.

 **6** **SCANNING TO FIND INFORMATION** Find and circle all the numbers in the report on pages 18–19. Then complete the student's notes with the correct numbers.

- 1 number of megacities in 1950 = _____
- 2 predicted number of megacities in 2025 = _____
- 3 percent of urban population in the world that live in megacities = _____ %
- 4 expected global population in 2025 = _____ billion
- 5 number of people who use the subway in Tokyo = _____ million
- 6 percent of Japanese universities in Tokyo = _____ %
- 7 number of people living in Delhi = _____ million
- 8 number of official languages spoken in Delhi = _____
- 9 age of Cairo's oldest university = over _____ years old

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

7 **WORKING OUT MEANING** Look at the word *slums* underlined in the report. What do you think it means? Circle the correct answer.

- a a very poor and crowded area in a city
- b a very unclean house
- c a very expensive area in the center of a city

CRITICAL THINKING

8 Work with a partner. Discuss the questions.

APPLY

Are there any megacities in or near your country?

ANALYZE

Why are modern cities growing so quickly?

EVALUATE

What are the best solutions to pollution and poor housing?

COLLABORATION

9 **A** Work in small groups. Number each group in the class 1 or 2.

- Group 1 - Make a list of 5-10 good things about living in a city.
- Group 2 - Make a list of 5-10 bad things about living in a city.

B As a class, combine your lists on the board. Then vote for the top 5 things in each list.

READING 2

PREPARING TO READ



- 1 UNDERSTANDING KEY VOCABULARY** Read the definitions. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in bold.

area (n) a region or part of a larger place, like a country or city
cheap (adj) not expensive, or costs less than usual
downtown (adj) the main or central part of a city
expensive (adj) costs a lot of money; not cheap
local (adj) relating to a particular area, city, or town
noisy (adj) loud; makes a lot of noise
quiet (adj) makes little or no noise

- 1 My hotel is _____ and calm. It is outside of the busy city center, so it isn't loud at night.
- 2 Central Park is a nice _____ to relax in New York City.
- 3 When people visit new cities, it's a good idea to ask _____ people for the best restaurants. They know the most about their city.
- 4 Since the airline was new, they offered _____ flights from New York City to Boston. A lot of new customers bought tickets at low prices.

Chicago, Illinois