



WHERE WE LIVE PART 2 – URBAN VS. RURAL

Suggested time: 45 minutes

What's important in this lesson:

You will learn the difference between urban and rural areas and discover how quickly Canada is becoming urban. You will consider trends that both encourage and discourage urban living, and you will discover what kinds of land uses are characteristic in urban and rural areas (and zones in between).

Complete these steps:

1. Use the data in Handout #1 to complete a line graph of rate of urbanization, and then use the graph to answer some questions.
2. Read the information in Handout #1 and complete a graphic organizer that contains your predictions of how certain trends might encourage or discourage people from living in cities.
3. Use the information in Handout #2 to complete some questions about the different land uses you would expect to see in different zones.
4. Get the answer key from your teacher and check your answers. Make any corrections in a different coloured pen or pencil.
5. Complete the Reflection exercise.

Hand-in the following to your teacher:

1. your graph
2. your completed and corrected assignments

Questions for the teacher:



URBANIZATION CHANGES IN CANADA

When we talk about the areas in which people live, we usually say that they live in an **urban** area or a **rural** area. **Urban areas** are built-up, like a city or town. They are more densely populated than rural areas. **Rural areas** are generally areas located outside of cities or towns. They are sparsely populated in comparison to urban areas. We often refer to people living in rural areas as “living in the country”.

Canada is a very urban nation, despite the large amount of land that makes up our country. Yet Canada was originally settled by people who were predominantly farmers living in rural areas. How and when did this change occur?

1. Use the data given below to create a line graph showing the change in the percentage of Canadians living in urban areas over time. You can get graph paper from your teacher. Use the following guidelines:

- Draw the line graph using a landscape orientation eg.  **not** 
- Use a vertical scale of 2 squares represents 10% and a horizontal scale of 4 squares represents 20 years
- Join the dots with a smooth line (**DO NOT** use a ruler to join the dots!)
- Remember: every graph has a title, scales which are labeled and a legend (if necessary)

Year	1851	1871	1891	1911	1931	1951	1971	1991
% living in urban areas	13.1	18.3	29.8	41.8	52.5	62.4	76.1	76.6

Adapted from Oxford School Atlas, 7th Edition

2. Look at the graph you created and complete the following questions:

a) Approximately when did the Canadian population become 50% urban?

b) Extend your graph with a dotted line. What would you predict the level of urban population in Canada to be in 2001?

c) Look at the slope of your line, which represents the rate of urbanization in Canada. Does it look like the rate of urbanization is staying the same, growing, or slowing down since 1971? Explain your answer.

I think it is _____ because the line is _____

_____.

Student Handout: Unit 2 Lesson 3



The shift from living in rural areas to urban areas was influenced by a number of economic and technological factors. For each factor given in the chart below, state how this might have encouraged more people to move to or live in cities. Follow the example given.

Factor/Change	Ways it might encourage people to move to or live in cities
better technology means better tractors	better tractors mean that fewer people are needed to work on a farm, so they have to go to the city to find work
industries/manufacturing plants develop in cities	
jobs require more and more education	
services such as hospitals, schools are established in cities and towns	
jobs in industries earn more money than farming	

Other current trends may influence people's choice to live in cities in a negative way. For each trend listed below, speculate about how this might discourage people from living in cities. Follow the example given.

Current trends	Ways it might discourage people from living in cities
internet access may mean you don't need to live as close to your work	people can live far outside the city and send their work in via the internet
industries and cars create air pollution	
land costs in urban areas are much higher than in rural areas	
the internet may mean that you can access services such as shopping, education and even medical help from a distance	

Student Handout: Unit 2 Lesson 3

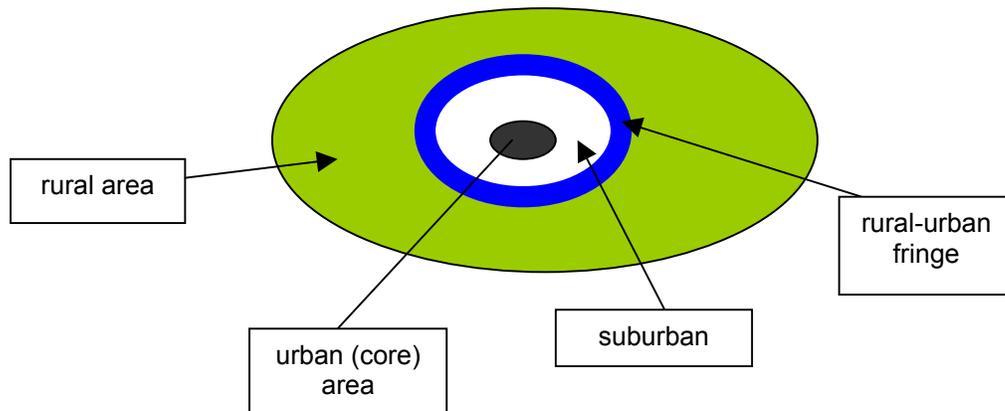




UNIT 2, LESSON 3: HANDOUT #2

CHARACTERISTICS OF VARIOUS URBAN AND RURAL AREAS

When we talk about where people live, we understand that different areas have different characteristics. The diagram below helps to identify 4 of the ways that geographers categorize the places people live.



All of these regions have some similarities and some differences. Read the following descriptions to see how they are different.

Urban (or core) areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tend to be older areas, with homes that are closer together, taller apartment buildings • higher population density • higher land costs • good public transportation • good access to services
Suburban areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tend to be newer areas with larger homes, spread further apart • medium population density • medium land costs • access to public transportation, but not as frequent service • good access to services
Rural-urban fringe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may have some industrial, large commercial land uses (“Big Box” stores) • a transition zone between the city and the country • may have a mix of land uses, such as garden nurseries, farms, gas stations, drive-ins and housing subdivisions • varying population density, depending on land uses found there • may have some access to public transportation, often does not • services are located closer to the core; people have to drive to access them • land costs may vary depending on planned future land development; speculators waiting for industrial or residential development may buy up land and drive up its price
Rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • much of land use is resource-based (eg. farms, forests, gravel pits) • low population density • lower land costs • very little access to public transportation • services are generally located in the urban areas and rural dwellers travel to access them

Student Handout: Unit 2 Lesson 3



Student Handout: Unit 2 Lesson 3



1. What type of region do you live in? Explain, giving examples/proof based on the information you just read.

I live in _____ . I know this because I see the following features in my area: •

-
-
-

2. Write the following land uses in the box for the region that you would expect to find them in.

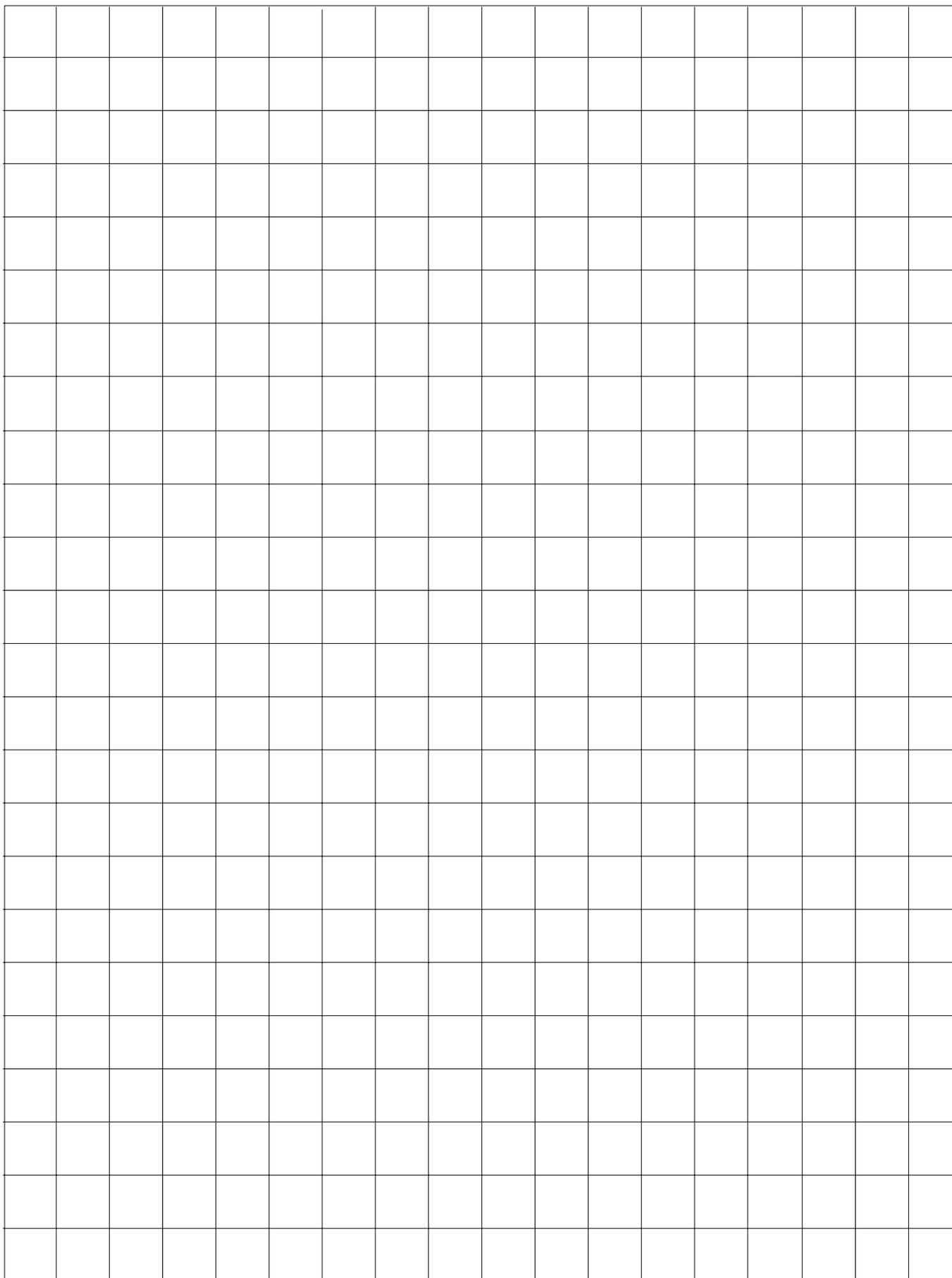
concert hall	university	pig farm
gravel pit	subdivision	train station
lumberyard	bus terminal	mall
drive-in movie	wheat fields	car plant
Old Navy "big box" store	conservation area	apple orchard

Urban (core) area

Suburban area

Rural-urban fringe

Rural area



Reflection Activity: Unit 2 Lesson 3



**WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE
WHEN YOU ARE 25?**



Here...



here...



or here...

Choose one of the locations shown above and make a list of why you would like to live there as an adult.

When I am 25, I would like to live in the _____ because
(city, suburbs or country)

-
-
-
-
-