

The big question: What challenges do global cities face?

Lesson	Essential Knowledge
1: Sustainable decisions - introduction	<p>A sustainable community is defined as a community that is designed to have minimal impacts on the environment. Such communities may make use of energy efficiency, renewable technologies and also make use of local employment and services to reduce the impacts of commuting. All around the UK, there are projects focusing on sustainable development and housing. These include the BedZED housing in South London (completed in 2002), Springfield Meadows in Oxfordshire, One Brighton (completed in 2007) and redevelopment plans in Western Park, Leicester. To make a community sustainable it isn't just about housing, it also includes commuting, culture, jobs and employment. The sustainability stool is used to show that for a project to be sustainable then you must balance the three "legs", environment, economy and society. To balance the impact of climate, change some businesses carbon offset. This works by planting trees to the value of how much carbon dioxide you produce. This is done on a national scale also, many countries including the UK offset their carbon emissions by planting vegetation or restoring ecosystems. Almost all businesses, councils, communities and individuals are looking at how they can be more sustainable from reducing meat consumption to driving electric cars or cycling to and from work.</p>
2: Investigating Curitiba	<p>Brazil is the largest country in South America at 8.5 million square kilometres, the UK is only 242,495km squared. Brazil experiences 6 climate zones ranging from desert to the North East, tropical to the West and semiarid to the South.</p> <p>Brazil has fast become a major exporter of goods such as iron ore, petroleum, soybeans and meat. Curitiba in southern Brazil has been promoted for putting public transport, mostly buses front and centre for reducing traffic congestion and carbon dioxide emissions. Curitiba is aiming to improve the city in a number of ways including; carbon-neutral homes, schemes to reduce household waste, conserving environments, efficient t public transport, and building on brownfield sites instead of greenfield sites. Why? Curitiba has been very successful in its aim to be sustainable.</p> <p>The reduction in car use has created less pollution. Green space means that people in the future will still have them. The higher level of recycling uses fewer resources. The city is a nice place to live 99% of the residents say they are happy. Public transport is key feature within the city, buses run approximately every 5 minutes, are far cheaper than privately owned vehicles and quicker as buses have their own dedicated lanes which cars cannot enter. Curitiba has been crowned as a city that is looking ahead to a greener future as citizens understand the importance of living in a greener way.</p>
3: How sustainable is New College Leicester? – Geography fieldwork.	<p>A key part of being a geographer is investigating areas and conducting fieldwork to answer enquiry questions such as "how much air pollution is being produced?". Fieldwork is split into human (humans, cities, population) and physical (landscapes, rivers, coasts) fieldwork. Before conducting fieldwork geographers create an enquiry question, a feature they want to investigate. Afterwards, they create a method on how they're going to collect the information, this is similar to a plan. Once these actions are completed the fieldwork begins. Geographers typically collect primary data, the information they have collected such as questionnaires, photographs, tally charts, interviews, or counting e.g. cars. This data is usually more reliable as it's collected first hand. Geographers also can use secondary data, information which other people have collected such as textbooks, news articles, scientific journals and the internet. This information is useful as It's normally taken from a larger sample (number of people who took part) but doesn't always link directly to the enquiry question. Students took part in an enquiry of seeing the environmental quality of NCL. The method was to conduct an environmental quality perception survey which helps to categorise the quality of the environment. Then the information was presented on radial graphs which clearly show the characteristics of the environment. Then students where able to conclude if whether or not the quality of the environment at NCL was good or poor.</p>
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6. Assessment	