6TH SIX WEEKS TOPIC

PUBLIC SPACES

WHAT IS A PUBLIC SPACE?

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- A public space is a social space that is generally open and accessible to people.

PUBLIC SPACES UNIT:
essential questions

🏠 What is a public space, who uses it, and how is it used?

🏰 How do vibrant and interactive public spaces contribute to a community?

🏛 What value do public spaces have for me personally?

🏡 What characteristics make a public space great or terrible?

🏕 How can we make our public spaces more useful?

🌲 What are some characteristics of a great public space?

🏕 Why are green cities important for society?

PUBLIC SPACES UNIT:
essential questions

🏘 To become a green (or greener) city, what characteristics should our city address first? Explain.

🏙 Is it practical to work toward making a large, urban environment (i.e., a city) green? Explain.

🏛 How does our school compare to other schools around the world in terms of public spaces?

🏡 Why should we think about the public spaces at our school?

🏕 What can we do collectively to improve the public spaces on campus?

🏞 What are key strategies for implementing improvements to public spaces on campus?

PUBLIC SPACES

- What are some example of public spaces in our community?

Parks

Beaches & Waterfronts

PUBLIC SPACES

Town Square

PUBLIC SPACES

Civic Centers

PUBLIC SPACES

Malls & Markets

Museums

PUBLIC SPACES

Public Libraries

Land Use and Land Cover

- We use land for many purposes
  - Farming, mining, recreation, buildings, highways, etc.
- Land cover is what you find on a piece of land.
- Types of land cover depend on how the land is used.

Rural vs. Urban

- Land that contains relatively few people and large areas of open space is Rural

- Land that is covered mainly with buildings and roads is urban.
- An area that contains 2,500+ people and usually have a governing body.

Rangeland:

- Land used to graze livestock and wildlife.

- 27% of U.S. Land Cover

- Source: United States Department of Agriculture.

Forest Land:

- Land used for growing and harvesting wood, and harvesting wildlife, fish, nuts, and other resources.
- 30% of U.S. Land Cover

- Source: United States Department of Agriculture.

Farm or cropland:

- Land used to grow plants for food or fiber
- 18% of U.S. Land Cover

- Source: United States Department of Agriculture.

Parks and Preserves:

- Land used for recreation, scenic enjoyment, and for preserving native animal and plant communities and ecosystems.

- 14% of U.S. Land Cover

- Source: United States Department of Agriculture.

Wetlands, mountains, deserts, and other

- Land that is difficult to adapt for human use.

- 8% of U.S. Land Cover

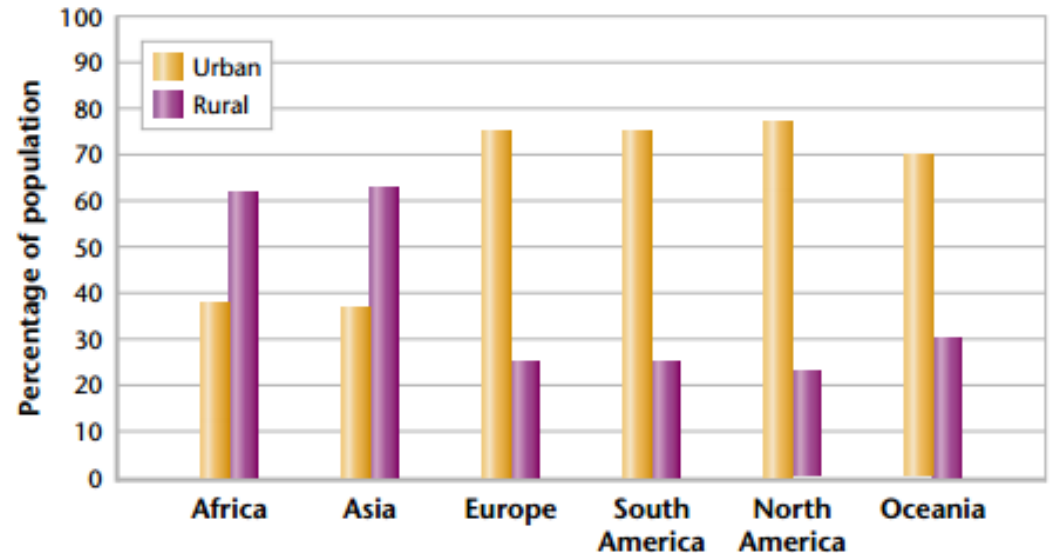- Source: United States Department of Agriculture.

Urban Land:

- Land used for houses, businesses, industry, and roads.

- 3% of U.S. Land Cover

- Source: United States Department of Agriculture.

Where We Live

- Until about 1850, most people lived in rural areas.

- The Industrial Revolution replaced many rural occupations with machinery.

- People moved to cities to find jobs.

Source: Population Reference Bureau.

The Urban-Rural Connection

- Even if people live in an urban area, they still depend on resources produced in rural areas.

- Ecosystem services are resources produced by natural and artificial ecosystems.

Examples of Ecosystem Services
purification of air and water
preservation of soil and renewal of soil fertility
prevention of flood and drought
regulation of climate
maintenance of biodiversity
movement and cycling of nutrients
detoxification and decomposition of wastes
aesthetic beauty

Supporting Urban Areas

- The area of rural land needed to support one person depends on many factors, such as:
  - Climate
  - Standard of living
  - How efficiently resources are used

Supporting Urban Areas: Comparisons

- Average person in a developed nation uses ecosystem services provided by 8 hectares of land and water.

- The average American: 12 hectares

- The average German: 6 hectares

- Some developing countries: <1 hectare.

- Note: 1 hectare = 2.47 acres