

Information sheet

Urbanisation is the proportion or percentage of people living in towns and cities.

- In **1800**, only about **3%** of the world's population lived in urban areas.
- In **1950**, about **30%** of the world's population lived in urban areas.
- In **2008**, the UN estimated **half** of the world's population lived in urban areas.

Urbanisation has resulted in more and more, larger and larger cities around the world. There has been a growth of very large cities with a population of more than 1 million.

- In **1850**, there were only **2 millionaire cities**, namely London and Paris.
- In **1950**, there were **83 millionaire cities**.
- In **2015**, there were **approximately 500 millionaire cities**.

There has been a change in the location and distribution of millionaire cities:

- **Before 1950**, many millionaire cities were found **in HICs and temperate latitudes north of the Equator**.

The world now also has megacities. These are cities with a population in excess of 10 million.

- In **1950**, there were only **three megacities** in the world: London, New York and Tokyo.

In 2014, there were 28 megacities worldwide: 16 in Asia, 4 in South America, 3 each in Africa and Europe and 2 in North America.

- By **2030**, the world is projected to have **41 megacities**.

Student tasks

1. Use a software application, such as **Excel**, to produce a **bar graph** to show how **the number of millionaire cities has changed over time**.
2. Research the names and locations of the world's 15 largest cities of today

Name of City	Location of City

3. Write a sentence to describe the changing location of the world's megacities.

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4. Complete the table below:

	True	False
There has been a change in the location and distribution of large cities since 1850 .		
In 1970 , half of the world's ten largest cities were found in the HICs of North America and Europe .		
By 2000 , 15 of the 19 world's largest cities were found in the LICs of Africa, Asia and South America .		
Since the 1970s , the growth rate of most cities in HICs has slowed down , or even declined .		
Currently , the fastest growing cities are in Southern Asia .		