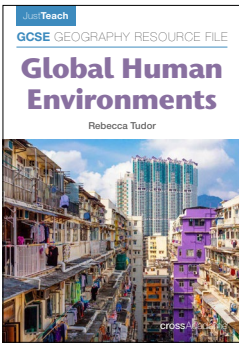


# Global Human Environments

Rebecca Tudor





# Global Human Environments

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# Urbanisation and urban growth

**Urbanisation** refers to the increase in the proportion of a country's population living in towns and cities. As a result of urbanisation, **urban growth** is occurring, which means that towns and cities are getting bigger. Figure 1 shows the growth of the world's urban population since 1960.

The rate of urbanisation varies across the world. Even though high-income countries (HICs) continue to have the largest proportions of urban populations, newly emerging economies (NEEs) and low-income countries (LICs) are generally experiencing faster rates of urbanisation. India, China and Nigeria are the three countries expected to contribute most to the increase in urban population by 2050. They are all newly emerging economies.

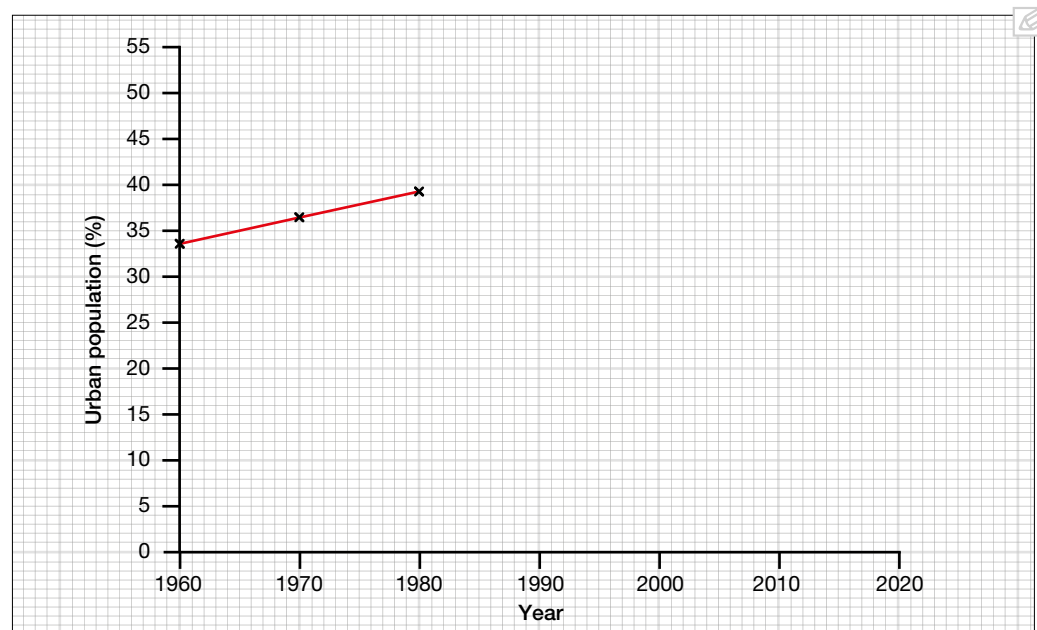
**Figure 1** Urban population as a percentage of the total world population, 1960–2016

Year	Urban population (%)
1960	33.6
1970	36.5
1980	39.3
1990	42.9
2000	46.5
2010	51.5
2016	54.3

Source: World Bank

## Activities

- 1** (a) Complete a line graph using the axes below and the data from Figure 1. (4 marks)

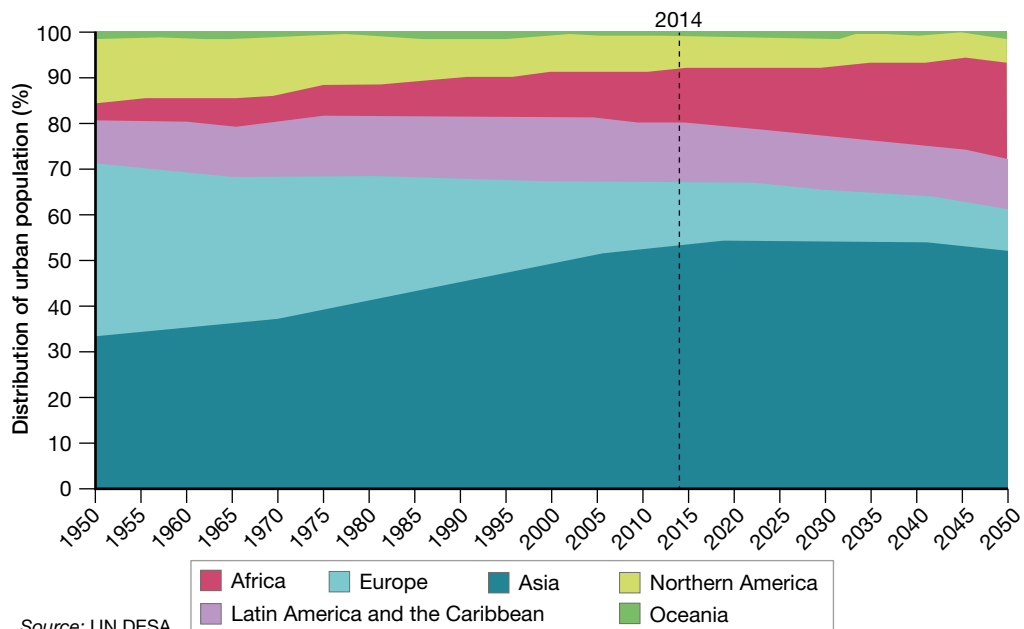


(b) Study your completed graph. Which *one* of the following statements about the world's urban population is true? Shade *one* circle only. (1 mark)

- A In 1985, 43% of the world's population lived in urban areas.
- B More than 55% of the world's population will be living in urban areas by 2020.
- C In 2000, more of the world's population lived in urban areas than rural areas.
- D The decade that experienced the largest growth in urban population as a percentage of the total world population was 2000–10.

2 Study Figure 2.

**Figure 2** Distribution of urban population across world regions, 1950–2050 (projected)



Source: UN DESA

(a) What percentage of the world's urban population was in Asia in 1950? (1 mark)

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) What percentage of the world's urban population was in Europe in 2014? (1 mark)

\_\_\_\_\_

(c) What percentage of the world's urban population is predicted to be in Africa in 2050? (1 mark)

\_\_\_\_\_

(d) Which continent is projected to experience the highest rate of percentage increase in urban population between 2014 and 2050? (1 mark)

\_\_\_\_\_

- (e) Describe how Northern America's percentage of urban population changed between 1950 and 2014. *(3 marks)*

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## Online activity

Use the internet to search for 'World Bank map urban population'. Choose the map which shows urban population as a percentage of total. You should find a map on the World Bank site which shows how urban populations have changed over time. Use the slider underneath the map to change the date.

- (a) Using the choropleth maps, describe how urban populations changed in different regions of the world between 1960 and 2016.
- (b) 'In 2016, the urban population comprised over 74.27% of the total national population only in developed countries.' How far do you agree with this statement? Justify your decision.

# Factors affecting the rate of urbanisation

There are two main factors that affect the rate of urbanisation – migration and natural increase.

## Migration

**Migration** is the movement of people from place to place. It can be international (when people move to another country) or internal (when people move within a country). It is possible to identify push factors and pull factors.

- **Push factors** are negative factors that cause people to want to leave an area.
- **Pull factors** are positive factors that attract people to an area.

In many countries experiencing high rates of urbanisation, **rural–urban migration** is the primary reason. People have chosen to move out of the relatively poor countryside to towns and cities where they believe there are better opportunities to improve the quality of their lives.

**Figure 1** Lagos, Nigeria

If more people move into an area than away from it, the area has a net population gain. If more people move out than move in, it has a net population loss.



ORIG-HOMISAN OGBEBORI/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

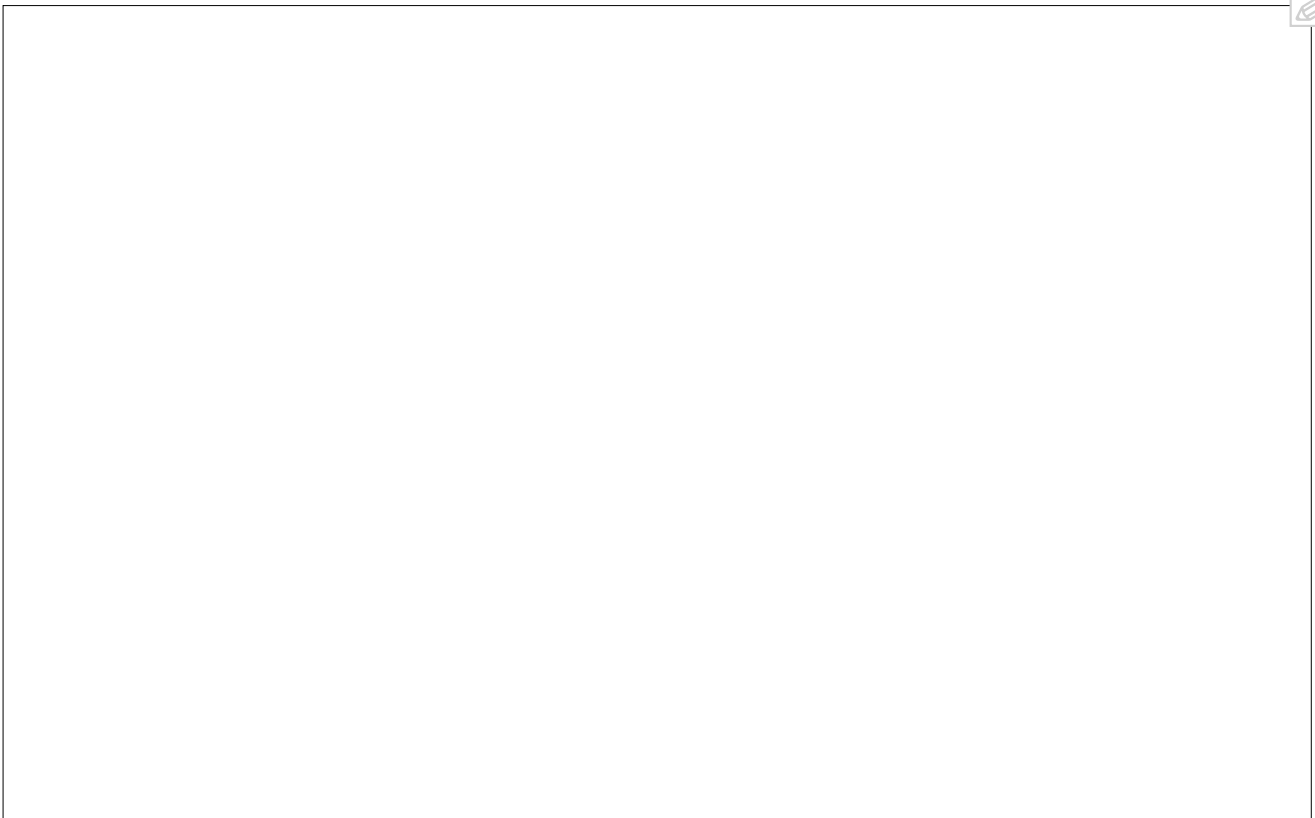
## Natural increase

**Natural increase** is the difference between the birth rate and death rate. If the number of births exceeds the number of deaths, then the population will increase. Developing countries and newly emerging economies often have a relatively young population. As a result, birth rates tend to be high. In most of these countries, death rates are falling due to improvements in healthcare. This results in relatively high rates of natural increase.

## Activities

- 1** (a) Draw a sketch of Figure 1 in the box below.

(2 marks)



- (b) Annotate your sketch to explain the pull factors of Lagos for people currently living in rural areas in Nigeria.

(4 marks)

- 2** Study Figure 2.

**Figure 2** Birth and death rates in Edinburgh and Delhi, 2014

City	Birth rate (per 1000 people) in 2014	Death rate (per 1000 people) in 2014	Rate of natural increase
Edinburgh, Scotland	11.3	8.8	
Delhi, India	20.9	6.8	

Sources: National Records of Scotland and Annual Report on Registration of Births and Deaths in Delhi, 2014

Calculate the natural increase for each city and write the figures in the spaces in Figure 2.

(2 marks)

UNIT  
2

Factors affecting the rate of urbanisation

**3** Describe and suggest reasons for the contrasts between Edinburgh and Delhi as shown in Figure 2. *(4 marks)*

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**Online activity**

Search online for push and pull factors of urbanisation. Choose *five push factors* and explain why each one would cause people to want to leave rural areas. Use photographs or sketches to illustrate your chosen push factors.



# Megacities: their characteristics and changing distribution

**Megacities** are cities that contain 10 million or more inhabitants. In 1950, there were only two megacities – Tokyo and New York – both in high-income (or developed) countries (Figure 1).

As the world's population has become more urbanised, the number and location of megacities around the world have changed (Figure 2).

The most rapid growth of cities has occurred in emerging and developing countries. This trend is set to continue. According to the UN, the cities that are expected to become megacities between 2016 and 2030 include:

- Lahore, Pakistan
- Hyderabad, India
- Johannesburg, South Africa
- Luanda, Angola

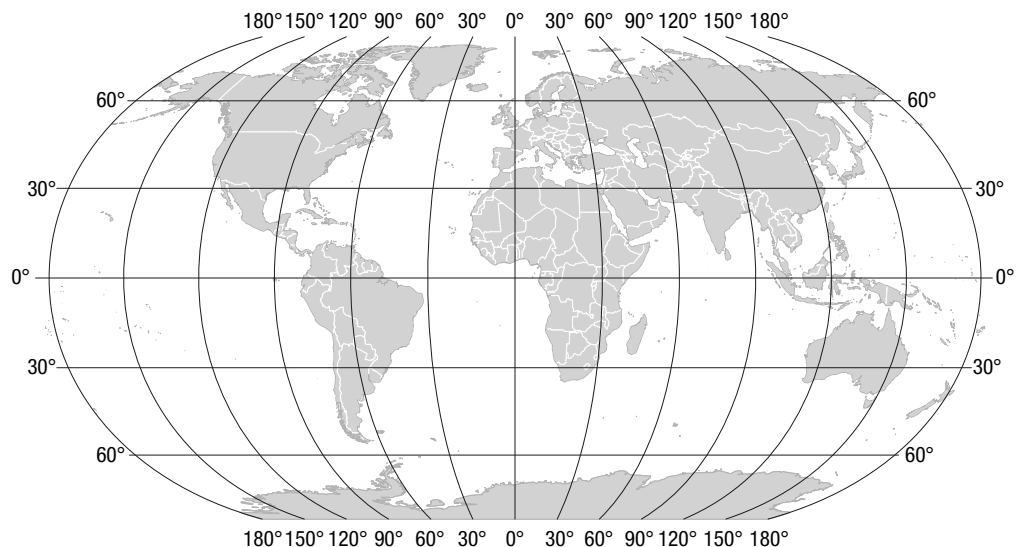
## Activities

- 1** Study Figure 1, which states the location of the only two megacities that existed in 1950.

**Figure 1** Megacity locations in 1950

City	Latitude	Longitude
New York	41°N	74°W
Tokyo	36°N	140°E

Using Figure 1, plot and label the locations of New York and Tokyo on the world map below. (2 marks)



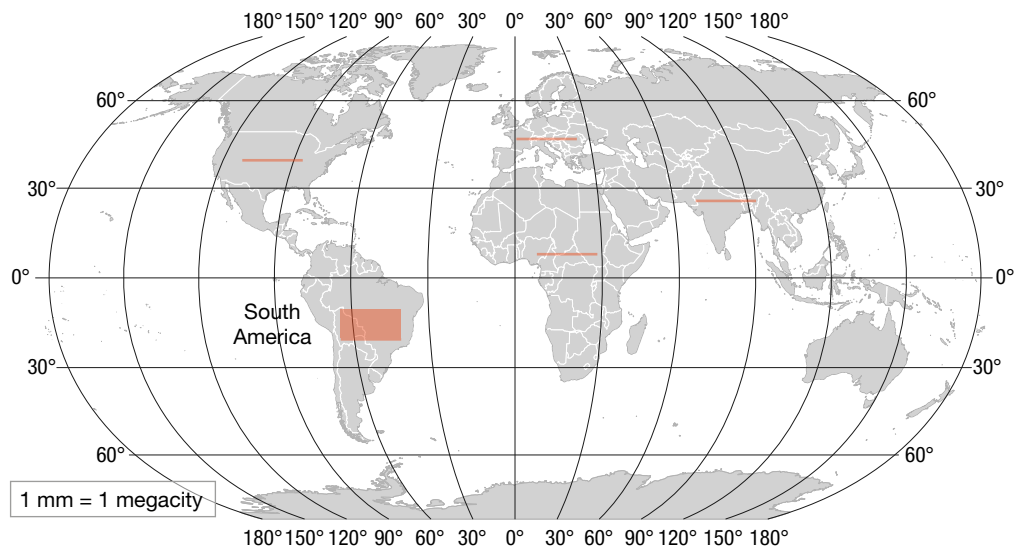
2 Study Figure 2.

Continent	Number of megacities in 2016	Projected number of megacities in 2030
Africa	3	6
Asia	18	24
Europe	3	3
North America	3	3
South America	4	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>41</b>

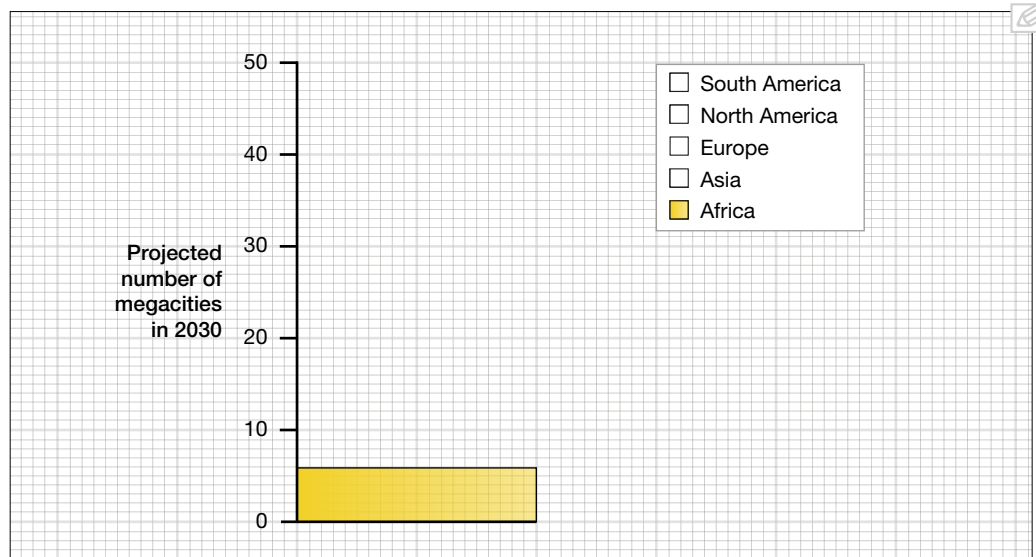
Source: www.un.org

**Figure 2** The number of megacities in different continents, 2016 and 2030 (projected)

(a) Using the map below, complete the located bars to show the number of megacities in each continent in 2016. The bar for South America has already been completed. (4 marks)



(b) Using the data from Figure 2, complete the compound bar chart below to show the projected number of megacities in 2030. Choose appropriate colours and complete the key. (4 marks)



UNIT  
3

Megacities: their characteristics and changing distribution

(c) The total number of megacities is projected to increase by \_\_\_\_\_ settlements between 2016 and 2030. *(1 mark)*

(d) Calculate the percentage increase in the total number of megacities that is projected between 2016 and 2030 (to the nearest per cent). *(1 mark)*

\_\_\_\_\_ %

(e) Using Figure 2, describe the changes in the predicted number and location of megacities between 2016 and 2030. *(4 marks)*

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**Online activity**

Use the internet to find the names of three current megacities other than New York and Tokyo. Each one should be from a different continent. Locate them on the world map provided in Activity 1.

Now choose one image for each city (try to choose images which show several characteristics) and annotate each photograph to describe the city’s human and physical characteristics.