

Urban Planning - Class Period 02 -

Class Goal: Introducing students to the Government functions and vocabulary.

Activity suggestion: (Teacher led) In this class period, I take my students through a virtual walk around Los Angeles by asking them what neighborhoods they know about (China Town, Santa Monica beaches, Hollywood) and I locate those on a large wall map of LA. When they run out of places, I fill in a few more. This is what LA looks like. It was developed with no plan. None. Zip. Zilch. That's why we are in the mess we are in.

(Teacher led) Then I introduce them to Santa Clarita Valley - a very large, completely pre-planned community. (It houses Magic Mountain amusement park so all of the kids know it.) Santa Clarita has its own **school district**, its own community college, etc. The 5 freeway cuts it in half. (This allows us to talk about pre-planning **public transportation** with growth in mind.) It has a small **redevelopment** project in it (Newhall) so that we can talk about redevelopment of run-down property. That happens in SimCity. It also has well-planned zoning that includes **commercial corridors**.

(Group discussion activity) Students love to talk about the lack of **public transportation** in Los Angeles. What's the best? What's the worst? How would you fix it?

(Group research activity) This brings us to the topic of pollution. What are the three top causes of **pollution**?

(Teacher led) I also introduce the three elements of zoning: **residential, industrial, and commercial** and explain those concepts briefly along with the 2:1:1 formula

(Class brainstorm/guess session, then research) Students guess about (and then research) **population**. How many people live in the world? In America? In California? In Los Angeles County? How does population affect urban planning?

Here are some population resources.

Click Here: <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/popclock>

1. What is the exact time right now?
2. What is the U.S. population right now?

Click Here: <http://www.demographia.com/db-2000stater.htm>

3. Where is California ranked among state populations?
4. What percent of people in the US live in California?

Click Here: http://www.worldfactsandfigures.com/complete_list.php

Navigate around this website and answer the questions below.

5. Where does the US rank among the nations of the world in terms of population?

6. Where does the US rank for life expectancy at birth?
7. What is the life expectancy at birth in the US?
8. Which country has the highest life expectancy at birth and which has the lowest?

At the end of this lesson, students should know this vocabulary list:

government
population
demographics
public transportation
zoning
residential
commercial
industrial
school district
redevelopment
commercial corridor