

SDG 11: Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient, and Sustainable *Various Grade Levels, Depending on Activity*

Description: According to the United Nations, about 55 percent of the world's population lives in urban areas, a number projected to rise to 68 percent by 2050. Natural population increases and the migration of people from rural areas to cities in search of economic opportunity are two reasons cities are growing. This rapid urbanization does not have to mean urban sprawl, however. The growth of the world's cities comes with risk and challenges, but also tremendous opportunity, if it is managed correctly. (This description comes directly from National Geographic)

Lesson Plan: <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/growing-painsand-plans/>

Highlights:

- “Smarten Up, City” (grades 5-9)
 - This lesson introduces students to the concept of “smart cities,” which provides them knowledge of some of the innovations on the horizon for cities generally
 - The plan asks students to utilize the IESE Cities in Motion Index, which exposes them to data interpretation and provides further knowledge regarding the future of cities
 - Lesson additionally asks students to utilize the National Geographic Mapmaker, which gives them the opportunity to gain technology navigation skills as well as provides visual representations of what they are learning
 - Discussion questions regarding smart cities include the following:
 - Is their city a smart city? If so, in what ways? If not, where is the closest one?
 - How green is their city’s “smartness?” What additional smart measures could be taken to make their city more efficient and sustainable?
- “LRT for ATX” (grades 8-10)
 - Asks students to research different types of public transportation and compare light rail systems to others such as buses or subways to strengthen their analytical and research skills
- “Operation Redesign” (grades 9-12)
 - Asks students to explore the concepts of urban planning and best practices, then allowing them to apply that knowledge to their own communities

