

Instructions

General knowledge city

10,000
%

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How many people have to live in the same place for it to become a city?

- a) At least 1,000 residents
- b) At least 10,000 residents
- c) At least 100,000 residents
- d) Different rules apply in different countries

Answer d) is correct

Each country has a different understanding of how many residents constitute a city. In Denmark it is 200, in Japan 50,000.

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What percentage of the world's population currently lives in urban areas?

- a) 10 percent
- b) 25 percent
- c) 55 percent
- d) 65 percent

Answer c) is correct

A little more than half the global population currently lives in an urban area. In other words, every second citizen lives in a town or city. In 1950, only 30 percent of all people lived in urban areas.

The United Nations estimates that the number will have risen to 68 percent by 2050. (*Status 2018*)



In terms of resident numbers, when does a city become a megacity?

- a) More than 1 million
- b) More than 5 million
- c) More than 10 million
- d) More than 15 million

Answer c) is correct

According to the United Nations, a city becomes a megacity when it is home to at least 10 million people.

The largest megacity in the world at the moment is the Greater Tokyo Area, with a population of 37 million. Then comes Delhi (29 million), Mexico City and Sao Paulo with 22 million each.

At the moment, there are 31 megacities in the world, but UN experts predict the number will rise to 43 by 2030. (Status 2018)



Which city has the largest area of parkland per resident?

- a) Sydney (Australia)
- b) Washington, D.C. (USA)
- c) Auckland (New Zealand)
- d) London (United Kingdom)

Answer a) is correct

Sydney tops the list of the greenest cities in the world, with 54 square meters (m²) (581 square feet) of park area per resident. A total of 5 million people live in the metropolis on Australia's eastern coast.

In second and third place, come Washington, D.C. with 47 m² and Auckland with 42 m² of parkland per resident.

At 10 square kilometers (km²), London's Richmond Park is one of the largest urban parks in the world.
(Figures have been rounded off, status 2017)

Biodiversity in the city



True or false?

Bees in the city are less healthy than rural bees.

Answer: False!

City bees are healthier.

While many rural areas have been given over to monocultures, the city offers bees plant diversity. When the grass is cut in rural areas, the flowers suddenly disappear.

In cities, however, they continue to grow in parks, abandoned plots and roof gardens. In urban areas, there is also less use of the pesticides and insecticides that are so bad for bees.

Biodiversity in the city



True or false?

City **spiders** are bigger.

Answer: True!

For humans, smooth gray concrete walls and lots of corners and edges might not sound very appealing, but they offer spiders plenty of places to spin their webs.

They can make bigger webs there than in rural areas, where it's harder to find the ideal location. And a larger web also means spiders can catch more prey.

Biodiversity in the city



True or false?

City **birds** sing louder.

Answer: True!

Reving engines, screeching tires and construction sites can all make the city a very loud place to be. Researchers have noticed how some bird species have already begun to sing louder, probably as a means of being heard over the urban din.

Scientists disagree on whether this development means they will still be able to communicate with members of the same species living in the countryside.



On average, how many different animal species live in European towns and cities?

- a) More than 1,000 species
- b) More than 10,000 species
- c) More than 50,000 species

Answer b) is correct.

An average of 10,000 different species live in European towns and cities.

Alone in the German capital Berlin, there are more than 150 different species of breeding birds. But larger mammals such as wild boar, foxes and racoons also live in the city's numerous parks and green spaces. They often find more food there than in the countryside, where agricultural monocultures don't offer very much to eat.

A flipside is that wild animals in the city often eat from our trash cans.

Biodiversity in the city



True or false?

Ants mean there are fewer rats in the city

Answer: True!

In New York, for example, a lot of food waste ends up on the street. Who removes it? Insects!

Without ants and other arthropods such as spiders, millipedes and much-maligned cockroaches, there would be many more rats in the city.

Scientists at North Carolina State University found the little creatures eat their way through almost 1,000 kilograms (2205 pounds) of food remains on the green traffic island of New York's Broadway and West Street every year. That's equivalent to some 60,000 hot dogs, they say.

Given the little creatures are providing a free garbage collection service, ant-friendly city planning makes sense.

Biodiversity in the city



True or false?

Hedgehogs that live in the city don't hibernate because it's too loud for them.

Answer: False!

Hedgehogs barely change their rural habits when they live in the city. They are largely driven by their sense of smell, which means they're less bothered by noise.

The prickly little mammals can easily settle down for several months of hibernation right next to a four-lane highway, as long as they find a suitable bed, such as a pile of leaves or brushwood or hollows between tree roots.

Climate change in the city



True or false?

Cities don't contribute to **climate change**.

Answer: False!

Cities have an enormous impact on climate change, because they're responsible for 70 percent of global greenhouse emissions.

But cities are also centers in which waste disposal, mobility and energy supply are rethought and where new concepts are developed.

Vancouver and Stockholm are trailblazer cities in this regard. In Vancouver, some 90 percent of power is generated using renewable sources. In Stockholm, 93 percent of residents travel to work by bicycle, on foot or by public transport.

Climate change in the city



True or false?

Climate change is barely noticeable in cities.

Answer: False!

Climate change is causing temperature rises in many regions of the world.

Because the asphalt and concrete on roads and facades of buildings heat up more than natural spaces in the countryside, the expected increase in heat is more extreme in cities, and leads to the creation of "heat islands," which hardly cool down even at night.

Scientists at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and the University of Amsterdam say unless city planners come up with innovative ideas to counteract the problem, some cities could be looking at a temperature increase of up to 8 degrees Celsius (14.4 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2100.

Climate change in the city



True or false?

Green rooftops in urban areas can reduce the air temperature.

Answer: True!

Research conducted by scientists at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and the University of Amsterdam suggests it would be possible to reduce the air temperature in cities by 0.8 degrees Celsius if 20 percent of rooftops in a city were green.

This approach could benefit almost every city in the world.

Climate change in the city



True or false?

Sea-level rise is becoming an increasing problem for cities.

Answer: True!

Climate change is causing sea levels to rise. For many cities, that is becoming increasingly problematic.

Three quarters of the world's metropolises are close to the coast. Collectively, they're home to around a billion people.

Climate change in the city



True or false?

The consequences of climate change are already factored into many **city planning** concepts.

Answer: True!

Many city planners are developing concepts to make urban areas more environmentally friendly and to reduce the effects of climate change. They're paying particular attention to flood protection and heat prevention.

Simple changes, such as white facades, can help to improve a city's climate. That's because light-colored building fronts reflect the sunlight and don't heat up as quickly as dark ones.

Trees are also fundamentally good for a city's climate; but if they block fresh air tracts or are planted too close together, they can also be counterproductive.

Climate change in the city



True or false?

Climate change affects the **economic success** of a city.

Answer: True!

Eighty percent of global gross income is generated in cities, but according to scientists at the University of Amsterdam, the consequences of climate change can, in the worst-affected urban areas, cause an 11 percent drop in national gross income.

This drop is brought about by things such as increased energy consumption through the use of air conditioners and cooling appliances, but also as a result of the added burden on healthcare systems.

Additionally, heat damage to streets and rail infrastructure can imply huge costs.