Global Challenges: Urban Design and the UAE

Lesson Plan: Global Challenges, Urban Design, and the UAE

Grade Level: High school (9-12)

Subject Area: Social Studies / AP Human Geography

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Duration: 180 minutes

Objective:
1. Students will be able to identify the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Students will be able to apply the UN Sustainable Development Goals at a local scale of analysis.
3. Students will understand how the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are measured.
4. Students will be able to identify the principles of New Urbanism and Smart Growth policies.
5. Students will be able to evaluate the extent to which a city fits the principles of New Urbanism And Smart Growth policies.
6. Students will analyze and be able to discuss how the principals of New Urbanism are at work in the United Arab Emirates, Masdar City.
7. Students will be able to compare and contrast the degree to which their city fires the principles of New Urbanism and Smart Growth policies with their partner's and / or small groups city(ies).
8. Students will be able to identify two principles of New Urbanism that could most benefit their village, town, or city.

Materials:
1. Laptop or computer device with internet access for each student.
2. Projector and screen.
3. "Does This City Fit New Urbanism?" student handout.
4. Google slide presentation "Challenges of Urban Changes"
5. Resources – Embedded in Digital Student Handout

Procedure: Day 1 – 90 minutes

Step 1:
    A. Provide and introduce students the digital handout "Glocal – Making Global Local"– 5 minutes
Step 2:
    B. Preview key terms with students and use the film to identify examples of those terms in action – 15 minutes
Step 3:
    C. Watch the [Nations United: Urgent Solutions for Urgent Times](#) – 35 minutes
Step 4:
    D. Lead a discussion using the following questions – 35 minutes
        a. What global challenge do you think is the most pressing discussed in the film?
        b. How do local decisions impact global challenges?
        c. What decisions can you make to address the UN Sustainable Development Goals at a local level?

Procedure: Day 2 – 90 minutes

Step 1: Introduce the topic of New Urbanism and Smart Growth policies by using the resources provided. – 5 minutes
  A. Divide students into small groups. The size of the group may vary depending on how much time you would like to dedicate to this lesson.
       a. I would recommend groups of 4-5 that way students are sharing the load of investigating various urban spaces and cities to learn about and compare the techniques and implementation of principles of "New Urbanism" and "Smart Growth" across different regions and states.
       b. If you would like students to do a more indepth individual assessment of these topics then I would recommend smaller groups or teams. In this case I would also recommend that the teacher use Masdar City as the example and this resource could be modeled in class and done tougher. Then students could divide the remainder of cities amongst themselves to compare and contrast to Masdar City and their own rural/urban landscape.
       c. If this assignment is divided between groups of 4-5 it will take students approximately 45 min to complete. If it is assigned as individual work it will take a student approximately 60-80 minutes to complete.
  B. Students complete the "Does this city fit New Urbanism" worksheet using the resources that are cited and embedded in the template.
Step 2: As a class, discuss the New Urbanism principles and Smart Growth policies listed on the worksheet. Clarify and misconceptions and answer any questions the students may have related to the terms and content.

Step 3: Instruct the students to pair up with a partner who had a different city than theirs. Have them compare their completed worksheets and discuss the similarities and differences in how each city fits the principles of New urbanism and Smart Growth policies. Students should write down their findings on a separate sheet of paper.

Step 4: Instruct students to identify and explain two principles of New Urbanism that they think would most benefit their village, town, or city. The students should use the New Urbanism principles online resource to gather ideas. Students should write down their answers on a separate sheet of paper and then transfer to the student handout. This provides students with processing time, organizational writing time, then formal writing assessment.

Step 5: As a class, have students complete the student worksheet in teams and then lead a discussion of significant takeaways that each individual, partnership, or small group made in connecting the urban design principles of new urbanism to Masdar City, other global cities, and student's local village, town, or city.

Step 6: Possible extension – have students write a letter or email to local government officials advocating for urban changes based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals or desired changes to urban landscape.

"Glocal": Making Global – Local

Purpose: In order to make connections between global and local (Known as "glocal perspectives") events and challenges that we face, students first need to understand and connect the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at global and local scales. This process will take place through several steps of investigation, research, and analysis – the ultimate objective being the creation of students who feel empowered and able to advocate for change in their local, national, and global communities.

The Set-up: Watch – [Nations United: Urgent Solutions for Urgent Times](#) – view this video and look for examples of the terms below in action. After viewing, use the guided discussion questions to reflect.

Previewing: Define the following terms and provide an example of each

Term	Definition	Example
Local Scale of Analysis		
National Scale of Analysis		
Global Scale of Analysis		
Glocal Perspective		
Sustainable Development Goals		
Demographic Indicators		

Post film discussion questions:

1. What global challenge do you think is the most pressing discussed in the film?
2. How do local decisions impact global challenges?
3. What decisions can you make to address the UN Sustainable Development Goals at a local level?

Step1: Students will use the [United Nations Annual Report from the Secretary General](#) and the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) progress summary report to complete the table below. Using the resources provided, select FIVE of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to investigate and analyze at global and local scales.

Example:

Which UN SDG?	What are the "targets" for this goal? (Highlights)	How are the targets measured? (Highlights)
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being at all ages	- Reduce drug abuse - Increase reproductive health access - Provide universal healthcare access - Reduce deaths and illnesses from pollution and contamination	- Alcohol consumption rates - Drug treatment coverage - Teenage birth rates - Mortality rates related to air and water pollution.

Making Connections: How could these "targets" at a global level be applied and measured at a local level?
Opioid abuse is a big problem in my community. We could look at local data from treatment facilities related to opioid use along with local death rates and arrest rates related to opioid use.

Which UN SDG?	What are the "targets" for this goal? (Highlights)	How are the targets measured? (Highlights)

Making Connections: How could these "targets" at a global level be applied and measured at a local level?

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Does This City Fit New Urbanism?

Step 1: Watch this video to introduce the history of urbanization on the planet earth. Answer the following reflection questions:

1. What event(s) led to the foundation of urban civilizations?

2. What is one piece of information that stuck with you or that you found interesting? Why?

Step 2: Watch this video to introduce the concepts of New Urbanism. Answer the reflection questions below.

1. What principle of New Urbanism do you think is the most significant to the long term health of human civilization? Explain.

2. What principle of New Urbanism do you think could be best applied to your current location? Why?

Step 3: In groups of four, divide, and view one of the four videos on Masdar City. Then complete the table below. Also – take a look at this amazing website for evidence as well: MASDAR CITY

VIDEO OPTIONS: OPTION 1 – OPTION 2 – OPTION 3 – OPTION 4

New Urbanism Principle	Masdar City – Explain what evidence you saw to support or refute.
Walkability	
Connectivity	
Mixed use and diversity	
Diverse housing options*	
Quality architecture and urban design	
Traditional neighborhood structure	
Increased density	
Smart transportation	
Sustainability	
Quality of life	

Step 4: Divide the cities among members of your group. Each group member should have a *different* city and watch a *different* video segment linked next to each city below.

Sao Paulo, Brazil Watch from 14:08-23:00
Tokyo, Japan Watch from 4:00-12:00
Cairo, Egypt watch from 25:00-32:00

Mexico City, Mexico watch from 33:00-40:37
New York City, New York watch from 49:00-54:00
Dhaka, Bangladesh watch from 54:00-1:00:01
Paris, France watch from 1:04-1:08

Step 5: Listed below are the 10 principles of New Urbanism, along with one smart growth policy. As you watch your video and explore your city, check the box for each of the 11 policies listed and add a quick explanation. See example.

Connectivity– Define and Describe the principal in your own words using this online resource.
Ex. Streets follow an easy to understand pattern that enhances the ability of people to walk while also moving traffic. It also relates to ensuring that there are easy pathways for residents to access services.
- Are streets planned to disperse traffic and built to make walking easy?

YES	NO	NO EVIDENCE
X		

Explanation: Ex. Buildings are built in a way to provide shade and make it easier for people to walk in the heat and allow easy access to services such as grocery stores to access healthy food options.

Policies of New Urbanism-My City IS: _____

1. Walkability* – Define and Describe the principal in your own words using this online resource.
- Is there evidence of there being amenities within a 10-minute walk of home?

YES	NO	NO EVIDENCE

Explanation:

2. Connectivity – Define and Describe the principal in your own words using this online resource.
- Are streets planned to disperse traffic and built to make walking easy?

YES	NO	NO EVIDENCE

Explanation:

3. Mixed use and diversity* – Define and Describe the principal in your own words <u>using this online resource.</u>
- Does one building has multiple uses for example– retail on the bottom, apartments on top?

YES	NO	NO EVIDENCE

Explanation:

4. Diverse housing options* – Define and Describe the principal in your own words <u>using this online resource.</u>
- Are there different types, styles and prices of homes?

YES	NO	NO EVIDENCE

Explanation:

5. Quality architecture and urban design – Define and Describe the principal in your own words <u>using this online resource.</u>
- Is it pretty and comfortable?

YES	NO	NO EVIDENCE

Explanation:

6. Traditional neighborhood structure – Define and Describe the principal in your own words <u>using this online resource.</u>
- Is there a park in the middle and does the density decrease as you move out from the CBD?

YES	NO	NO EVIDENCE

Explanation:

7. Increased density – Define and Describe the principal in your own words [using this online resource.](#)
   ● Are peoples residences, shops, services etc. all very close together?

YES	NO	NO EVIDENCE

Explanation:

8. Smart transportation – Define and Describe the principal in your own words [using this online resource.](#)
   ● Is there good and accessible public transportation?

YES	NO	NO EVIDENCE

Explanation:

9. Sustainability– Define and Describe the principal in your own words [using this online resource.](#)
   ● Are the buildings energy efficient? Less cars?

Explanation:

10. Quality of life – Define and Describe the principal in your own words [using this online resource.](#)
    ● Is it a nice place to live?

YES	NO	NO EVIDENCE

Explanation:

Step 6: Did you see evidence in your video of any of the following challenges or urban changes listed below? [Here is a google slide resource to review these challenges](#). If so, check the box and explain below the evidence from the video that showed your cities faced those challenges.
   ● Housing Discrimination
   ● Unaffordable housing

- Crime
- Environmental Injustice
- Squatter Settlements
- Gentrification

Explanation:

Step 7: Get with your partner who has a *different* city than you. Go through each of the Principles of New Urbanism and Smart Growth policies and compare your cities.

- The name of my partner's city was_____

- Compare the degree to which your city *more* or *less* fits the principles of New Urbanism and Smart Growth than your partner AND explain why. (3-4 sentences and remember you must say MORE or LESS)
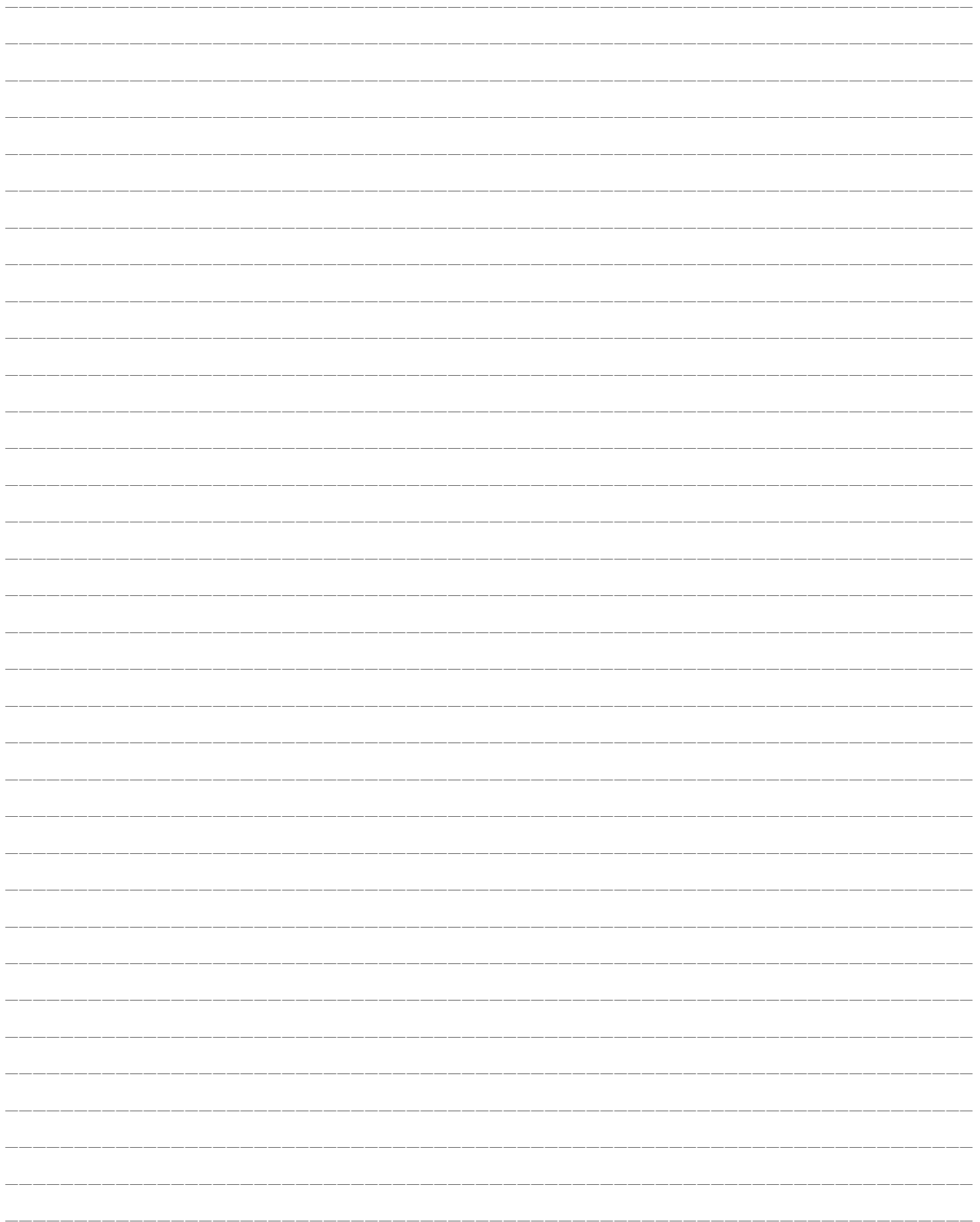
Ex. My city fits the principles of New Urbanism(more/less) than my partner's city because……Furthermore, my city has……Also, ….. If my partner's city had….. Etc.

- Have a conversation about which elements of new urbanism you and your partner / whole group thinks the Metropolitan Area could benefit most from. Focus on the village, town, or city where you live.

- IDENTIFY and EXPLAIN TWO principles of urbanism that you think your village, town, or city could most benefit from. Consult this resource for potential ideas.

REMEMBER: Identify – State a clear, concise, specific answer.
Explain – Answer the question why or how by using the word because making your reasons plainly understood

_____

_____

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