

Activity Title:

6d - Evaluation of urban areas – are they well planned? (2)

(This activity has been adapted from one developed and generously gifted by Leontien van der Beek (Hamilton Boys High School))

Learning outcome(s):

- Critique the planning of western Bay of Plenty (sub-region) urban settlements.
- Explore the concept of accessibility as a criteria for a well planned settlement.

Key words:

Urban settlement; accessibility; planning

Materials:

- Paper and pens
- Urban settlement evaluation forms (see following page)
- Sustainable transport to view urban settlements

Approximate time required:

This activity will take approximately half a day.

Suggested prior learning:

2a What makes a city a great place to live?

2h Evaluation of urban areas – are they well planned? (1)

Possible learning activities:

Evaluation – field visit

- Visit two western Bay of Plenty urban settlements (or settlements in your own sub-region) and decide how you would rate them on the following criteria – ‘compact’, ‘connected’, ‘human’ and ‘green’. Examples of settlements that could be good to visit include: Greenfield sites such as Pāpāmoa East and The Lakes; older settlements that have had major recent additions such as Pāpāmoa central (around the Plaza and Fashion Island) and the new Bethlehem town centre; older urban areas such as Merrivale; Greerton and Mount Maunganui. Use or adapt the urban settlement evaluation form (following) to critique each settlement.

Additional resources / activities:

- See PDF files: Re-thinking urban environments and health (2008).

The New Zealand Centre for Sustainable Cities / Te Pokapū rōnaki tāone-nui at www.sustainablecities.org.nz

Follow-on activities (found elsewhere in this resource):

- 2i Managing urban sprawl - ‘intensification’ of urban settlements

Activity #:

6d

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Evaluation of urban areas – are they well planned? (2).

Curriculum Level:

Level 5 / 6 / 7

Curriculum Links:

Social Science

Achievement objectives

6.1 Understand that natural and cultural environments have particular characteristics and how environments are shaped by processes that create spatial patterns.

7.1 Understand how the processes that shape natural and cultural environments change over time, vary in scale and from place to place, and create spatial patterns.

Curriculum:

Key competencies:

Thinking

Principles:

Future focussed

Values:

Innovation, inquiry and curiosity

Geographic Key Concepts:

Change; Perspectives Interaction

Geographic skills:

Fieldwork skills, Communication skills

Māori geographic concepts:

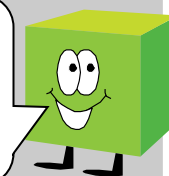
Tino rangatiratanga; Mana whenua; Kaitiakitanga; Whakapapa; Taonga; Whakanohonoho

Assessment opportunities:

Geography Achievement Standards: 1.2, 2.2

Sustainability tip!

Use sustainable transport (try public transport!)



Urban settlement evaluation form

Name of urban area: _____

COMPACT:

A compact urban settlement is walkable, and includes mixed-use neighbourhoods and town centres. Walking is an attractive option. People have a choice of living environments. High quality design allows people to enjoy a high life quality within intensified neighbourhoods. Attractive open spaces compensate for the reduction in access to private open space that will occur with intensification over time. Access exists to a range of services, activities and transport options.

Rate this urban area (1 being least compact and 5 highly compact)

COMPACT: / 5

CONNECTED:

A connected urban settlement has good connections between places that save us time and money, improve our health and minimise the impact on our environment. There are public transport routes. Urban blocks are not too large so as to make walking easier. Alternative modes of travel are encouraged through the design of roads and streets.

Rate this urban area (1 being least connected and 5 highly connected)

CONNECTED: / 5

HUMAN:

Settlements that are human focussed on people and pedestrians not the private motor vehicle. People are encouraged to walk without being intimidated by traffic. People are encouraged to stop and enjoy great spaces and places. Public spaces and transport work effectively and are attractive to all people – including young, disabled and the elderly.

Rate this urban area (1 being least human and 5 highly human)

HUMAN: / 5

GREEN:

Green urban settlements have urban forms and patterns of land use encourage sustainable behaviour and minimises the impact of our lives on our environment. They include green space. Buildings are fit for purpose, affordable and durable. Buildings and open space utilise green technology. Landscape values and ecological systems are respected and enhanced.

Rate this urban area (1 being least green and 5 highly green)

GREEN: / 5

OVERALL SCORE FOR THIS URBAN AREA: _____ /20