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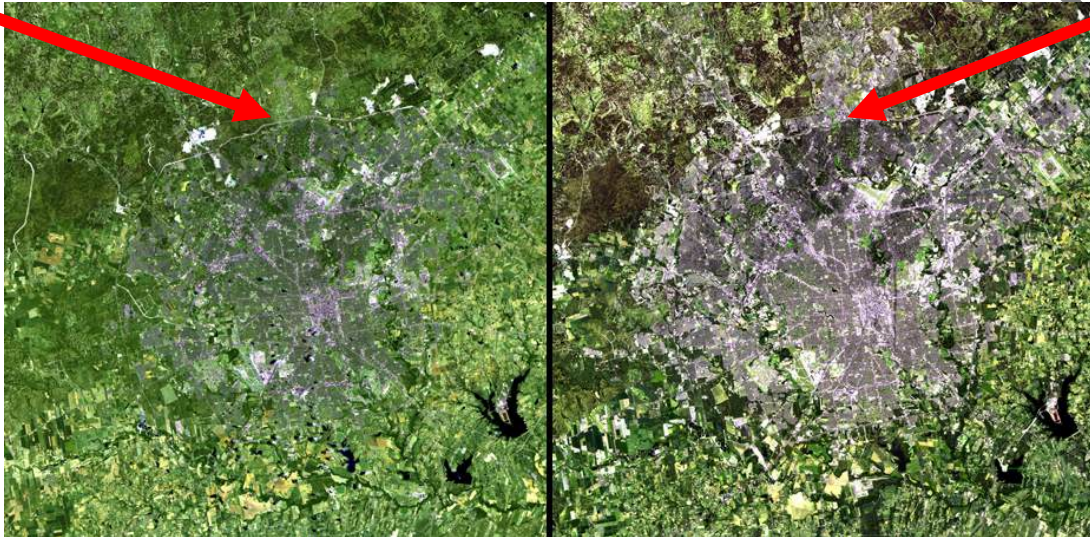
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Urban Sprawl

What is urban sprawl?

Urban sprawl happens when an **urban area** spreads to areas just outside the city that have fewer people living in them. New houses, roads, buildings, schools, stores and other things have to be built. Below is a perfect example. It is a picture taken by NASA of the city of San Antonio, Texas prior to urban sprawl in 1991 and after in 2010.



Before: (June 16, 1991)

After: (June 4, 2010)

In San Antonio, the population grew by 610,000 people between 1991 and 2010. You see how the area with trees and grass (green colors) in 1991 changed to roads and houses (grey colors) in 2010.

What causes urban sprawl?

Ecobottle Sample

TWF

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Urban Sprawl – The movement of people from crowded areas like cities, into less crowded areas like the country.

Urban areas – Cities or towns with a high number of people living in them.

Population – The number of people living in an area.

- An increase in income: When people have more or better jobs, their standard of living rises. This means they can afford to buy cars and bigger houses.
- A decline in transportation costs: These areas are large and you need a car to get from one place to another. Cars are cheaper than before, so more people are able to buy cars and drive into the city for work.

Fun Fact!

In 1910, only a little over 500,000 cars were registered in the United States. By 1960, 64% of employees drove to work, and by 1980 this number rose to 84%!

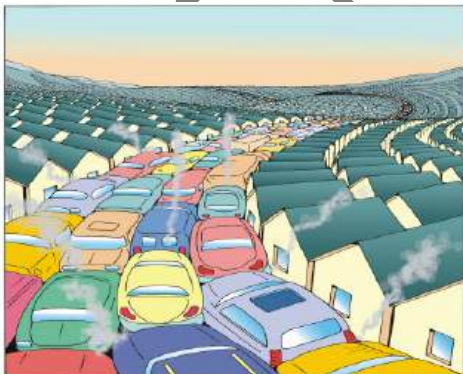
What are the negative effects of urban sprawl?

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- More cars on the road means more traffic and more car pollution. Cars release greenhouse gases (GHG), which cause **global warming**.



Fun Fact!

If you count all the hours a person who drives one hour a day to get to work, it is equal to 45 days spent in a car per year!

What would you do with those 45 days instead?

Green spaces – An area of natural grass, trees or other vegetation.

Habitat – The home of a plant or animal

Global Warming – An increase in Earth's temperature that can change its climate.

Reading Comprehension Questions:

- 1) What is
- 2) Give three reasons why urban sprawl occurs.
- 3) Can
- 4) Can you
- 5) What are two negative impacts of urban sprawl?
- 6) How does

Extension Questions:

- 7) Use your
- 8) How can you help reduce the effects of urban sprawl?

Ecobottle Sample



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TWF READING

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