AP Human Geography
Summer Assignment

Taking You Places
Congratulations on your decision to take AP Human Geography. Geography is an exciting subject and completing this class will help you find success during the rest of your high school career. In AP Human Geography you will learn to make connections and ask questions in all of your other classes. You will establish the study habits and the discipline needed to succeed in upper level courses. A basic knowledge of Geography will help you understand the way the world around you works and help you spot opportunities for success. This Summer Assignment has been created to help you prepare for the year ahead by giving you a chance to view the world through a Geographer's perspective or lens. It will serve as several important grades when you start the year. It is important that you invest the time to work on this assignment because you will not be able to complete it overnight. You can choose to complete the activities in any order you wish, they will all help you prepare for the course. Remember, Geography can take you far!

AP Human Geography World Regions: A Closer Look

**World regions maps:** Many of the regions overlap or have transitional boundaries, such as Brazil, which is part of Latin America, but has Portuguese colonial heritage. Although some regions are based on culture, others are defined by physiographic features, such as sub-Saharan Africa, which is the part of the continent south of the Sahara Desert. Not all geographers agree on how each region is defined. One geographer may place Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Middle East, but another may place them in Central Asia as both countries were formerly parts of the Soviet Union. Likewise, some geographers still use the term Middle East, whereas others use Southwest Asia to describe the same region.
### AP Human Geography

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Read

You will read five articles and answer the questions that follow in complete sentences. These were selected to give you a better understanding of the world we live in. If you come across words you are unfamiliar with, look them up. Get used to reading with a highlighter in your hand. Circle main ideas, underline supporting information and make notes in the margins. You can find additional articles, stories and case studies at www.ineedgeography.com

Battling Blight: Detroit Maps Entire City To Find Bad Buildings

by QUINN KLINEFELTER  NPR February 18, 2014

Inside one in a series of abandoned homes along a blighted block of Detroit's Brightmoor neighborhood, filmmaker Tom McPhee walks through the remnants of a life — broken furniture, scattered knickknacks and a flooded basement.

"This is fresh water that's coming into the basement here," McPhee points out. "All of that plumbing has been ripped away 'cause someone found a value in it, so they don't care that it's running. This is all over the city."

People like him help catalog blight in Detroit, but the sheer size of this city makes it hard to pin down: Detroit has 380,000 parcels of land stretched across 139 square miles — so many parcels that its antiquated computer system can't keep up.

Last fall, White House officials created a Blight Task Force here in partnership with some private foundations, to determine just what property is salvageable among the estimated 80,000 abandoned buildings.

Now that information is pouring into a long room with dozens of people poised over laptops — a White House Situation Room-style mapping area with computerized images of all of the buildings in the city, and outlines of what should be done with them. This is "Mission Control."

A map of Detroit covers one table. It's replicated on the laptop screens and overlaid by a computer grid of the city. Blue dots represent surveyors out in the field, and they're all over the city right now.

Lauren Hood works with Loveland Technologies, a company that developed a new way of mapping Detroit. They call it "blexting" — sending teams throughout the city to text pictures and descriptions of blight to a database. Hood says that in a few months, that data will be available as an app for anyone to access, or correct.

"People that actually live in the neighborhoods can respond to what's been said about their neighborhood, and add to it or change it or update it," she says. "They can have the power."

Nearby, supervisor Mark Weaver remembers meeting residents whose initial suspicion quickly changed to hope once he described the project's goals. He says the feeling of despair in these neighborhoods can be palpable.

"You're seeing people who just gave up: They moved away, they gave up their homes," he says. "And it becomes like a domino effect, because once all of your neighbors begin moving out, then you think, 'Why should I stay here and maintain my home when I'm surrounded by blight and terror?'"
Detroit officials spent decades trying to tear down such homes, but each demolition costs between $5,000 and $10,000. The mapping project's manager, Sean Jackson, says the new database will help them better use the scarce funding by compiling information that the city and county departments' outdated computers could never integrate.

"A lot of times they might own a couple properties next to each other, and they just don't know that they all own a house on the same block," Jackson says. "So now we can actually show them, 'Hey, all four of you guys, all four different departments, you all have property on this street. If you're going to send in a demo crew, instead of sending them in four different times, why don't you all put your properties together and do all four of them at the same time so you can help get some cost savings and be able to work together on solving these problems?" "

That's the kind of information new Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan says he's waiting for.

Despite a state-appointed emergency manager making all of the financial decisions for the city, Duggan vows to use what power he retains to make Detroit a more attractive place to live, beginning by bringing anti-blight agencies under a single Land Bank Authority.

But the mayor says he needs the information from the mapping database to improve Detroit beyond its thriving downtown and midtown areas.

"Everything starts with the neighborhoods," Duggan says. "And so we're going to build a legal team at the Land Bank to do what I was doing when I was in the prosecutor's office: with lawyers to go in and sue the owners of the abandoned houses, knock down the ones that can't be fixed, sell the ones that can, and move through the city on a systematic basis."

At least one decision already appears to have been made.

Remember the flooded basement inside the abandoned home in Brightmoor? Once abandoned homes are removed, water service will be turned off to those areas permanently.


Questions-

1. Describe the economic circumstances that have led so many to abandon homes and properties in the city of Detroit. Also, what factors could be pulling people to relocate in other places?

2. Explain some of the consequences of having large numbers of abandoned homes and properties within the city?

3. How is the city of Detroit using maps to address the problem of blight?
Bangladesh was created out of chaos in the early 1970s, at a moment when millions in the country were dying from a combination of war and famine. The future looked exceedingly bleak.

Abdul Majid Chowdhury and Noorul Quader were Bangladeshi businessmen who wanted to help their country. "We asked ourselves, 'What the hell do we want?' " Chowdhury recalls. The answer he and his friends arrived at: "We need employment. We need dollars."

Their solution involved Richard Nixon, an obscure but hugely influential trade deal, and a cultural struggle over kimchi.

At the time, Bangladesh had no modern economy to speak of. The country's main export was jute, a fiber used to make burlap sacks. So Quader and Chowdhury looked to textiles, an industry that had been a first step out of rural poverty for dozens of countries, stretching all the way back to the Industrial Revolution in England. One problem: Chowdhury didn't know the first thing about the textile business. "I did not know how many buttons I had in my shirt," he says.

A few decades earlier, South Korea had also been a largely rural country that was devastated by war and written off by much of the world. But, partly by learning to make clothes and sell them to the world, South Korea had climbed the ladder out of poverty.

Quader and the head of a major garment factory in South Korea had been in touch about the possibility of manufacturing in Bangladesh. So Quader sent Chowdhury to South Korea, where he toured a clothing factory full of women working at sewing machines. He knew instantly that women in Bangladesh could do the work.

Chowdhury sat down for a meeting with the head of Daewoo, the giant company that owned the factory. They talked to the guy for ten hours, until 2 in the morning. The meeting worked. Daewoo agreed to invest in a clothing factory in Bangladesh.

Help came from an unlikely source: President Richard Nixon. In the early '70s, clothes and textiles were pouring into the U.S. from South Korea and other countries and were threatening U.S. textile jobs. European countries were having the same problem. In response, Nixon worked with European leaders to create a global agreement called the Multi-Fiber Arrangement. The boring-sounding deal reshaped much of the global economy.

The MFA set firm quotas for how much clothing other countries could sell to the United States and European countries. The rules were incredibly detailed: Sri Lanka can sell only so many bras to the U.S. each year; China can sell this many T-shirts, and no more.

And, crucially, around the time Chowdhury made his trip to the Daewoo clothing factory, South Korea had hit its quota under the MFA. That gave Korean companies an incentive to set up shop somewhere else — like, say, Bangladesh — to be able to make clothes for export to the U.S.

Quader, with Chowdhury's help, wound up bringing a group of 128 of his countrymen to train with Daewoo in South Korea for six months. The culture clash was instant. "The problem we had was the stinky food — the kimchi," says Muhammad Nuruddin, one of the trainees, who still works in garments today. "We could not eat them ... Some girls were vomiting."
The Koreans were similarly weirded out by the Bangladeshis. It was the first time Kim Eun Hee, a trainer at Daewoo in charge of the collar-and-cuff section, had ever met someone from that part of the world. "When they were around, there were these different spices that I could smell from them," he recalls. "It was not too easy at first to approach them and to be near them."

But they worked through it. Kim Eun Hee even tried Bangladeshi food himself. "Once, they invited us to a special event that they prepared for us," he says. "They served some of their food to us, and we couldn't eat it. It was just repelling."

It was so awkward, that the boss had to intervene. "Our CEO actually called all of us out," Kim says. "He brought us to a corner room and said, 'We're going to be living in an international society, and this is something we're going to have to endure. So suck it up and just eat it.'"

The CEO was right: In 1980, Kim Eun Hee flew to Bangladesh to help set up the country’s first export-oriented garment factory, Desh Garments, led by Noorul Quader, the Chairman and Managing Director. Quader hired Chowdhury to work with him as a director.

In the 30 years since then, Bangladesh has become one of the world’s largest exporters of apparel. This has created millions of jobs and helped drive down the country’s poverty rate, but the rapid change has also created new problems for Bangladesh. This was made tragically clear earlier this year, when the Rana Plaza factory building collapsed, killing more than 1,000 workers.

Today, there are more than 4,000 garment factories in Bangladesh. One way or another, most of them trace their lineage to Quader, Chowdhury and the 128 Bangladeshis who traveled to Korea 30 years ago.

[http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2013/12/05/247360903/nixon-and-kimchee-how-the-garment-industry-came-to-bangladesh](http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2013/12/05/247360903/nixon-and-kimchee-how-the-garment-industry-came-to-bangladesh)

1. Bangladesh gained independence in the 1970’s after a civil war with Pakistan. What problems did the growing garment industry help to resolve for this new nation?

2. What role did politicians play in the garment industry in Asia?

3. With globalization often comes cultural conflict. Describe some of the cultural barriers that had to be overcome in this article.

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Quinoa’s Global Success Creates Quandary at Home


LA PAZ, Bolivia — When NASA scientists were searching decades ago for an ideal food for long-term human space missions, they came across an Andean plant called quinoa. With an exceptional balance of amino acids, quinoa, they declared, is virtually unrivaled in the plant or animal kingdom for its life-sustaining nutrients.

But while Bolivians have lived off it for centuries, quinoa remained little more than a curiosity outside the Andes for years, found in health food shops and studied by researchers — until recently.

Now demand for quinoa (pronounced KEE-no-ah) is soaring in rich countries, as American and European consumers discover the “lost crop” of the Incas. The surge has helped raise farmers’ incomes here in one of the hemisphere’s poorest countries. But there has been a notable trade-off: Fewer Bolivians can now afford it, hastening their embrace of cheaper, processed foods and raising fears of malnutrition in a country that has long struggled with it.

The shift offers a glimpse into the consequences of rising global food prices and changing eating habits in both prosperous and developing nations. While quinoa prices have almost tripled over the past five years, Bolivia’s consumption of the staple fell 34 percent over the same period, according to the country’s agricultural ministry.

The resulting quandary — local farmers earn more, but fewer Bolivians reap quinoa’s nutritional rewards — has nutritionists and public officials grasping for solutions.

“As it’s exported, quinoa is now very expensive,” said María Julia Cabrerizo, a nutritionist at the Hospital de Clínicas, a public hospital here. “It’s not a food of mass consumption, like noodles or rice.”

Quinoa, domesticated thousands of years ago on Bolivia’s arid high mountain plains and now often misrepresented as a grain, is actually a chenopod, related to species like beets and spinach. Its seeds have a light, nutty taste, and when cooked become almost translucent.
While the Incas relied on quinoa to feed their soldiers, it was only recently that Bolivian farmers, with the help of European and American foreign aid organizations, started growing quinoa for export.

The focus on foreign markets has altered life in isolated places like Salinas de García Mendoza, a community on the edge of the salt flats in southern Bolivia where much of the country’s quinoa is produced. Agricultural leaders claim that rising exports of the plant have lifted living standards there and in other quinoa-growing areas.

“Before quinoa was at the price it is now, people went to Argentina and Chile to work,” said Miguel Choque Llanos, commercial director of the National Association of Quinoa Producers. Now, he said, rising quinoa prices have also encouraged city dwellers to return to their plots in the countryside during planting and harvest seasons.

Yet there are causes for concern. While malnutrition on a national level has fallen over the past few years thanks to aggressive social welfare programs, Ms. Cabrerizo, the nutritionist, said studies showed that chronic malnutrition in children had climbed in quinoa-growing areas, including Salinas de García Mendoza, in recent years.

In Salinas de García Mendoza and elsewhere, part of this change is due to climbing quinoa prices and more quinoa being destined for export.

“I adore quinoa, but I can’t afford it anymore,” said Micaela Huanca, 50, a street vendor in El Alto, a city of slums above the capital, La Paz. “I look at it in the markets and walk away.”

Officials in President Evo Morales’s government say that changing food preferences and increased ability to buy processed foods also play a role.

“It has to do with food culture, because if you give the kids toasted quinoa flour, they don’t want it; they want white bread,” said Víctor Hugo Vásquez, vice minister of rural development and agriculture. “If you give them boiled water, sugar and quinoa flour mixed into a drink, they prefer Coca-Cola.”

The shift away from consuming quinoa in the cradle of its cultivation has alarmed some of the plant’s top marketers in the United States, where quinoa is increasingly coveted by health-conscious consumers.

“It’s kind of discouraging to see stuff like this happen, but that’s part of life and economics,” said David Schnorr, the president of the Quinoa Corporation of Los Angeles, one of the largest importers of quinoa in the United States, which has worked with Bolivian producers since the 1980s.

Mr. Schnorr said quinoa’s climbing prices in the United States were raising other concerns as well. “At $5 a box, only so many people can afford that,” he said, adding that he would prefer a price about half that amount. “I’ve always been an advocate of expanding the market, keeping the prices to a point where more people can try it.”

Here in Bolivia, government officials are trying to increase domestic quinoa consumption, even as the product faces steep competition from other foods. At supermarkets here, a 1,000-gram bag of quinoa, just over two pounds, costs the equivalent of $4.85, compared with $1.20 for a bag of noodles the same weight and $1 for a bag of white rice.

President Morales said this month that he planned to make more than $10 million in loans available to organic quinoa producers, and health officials are incorporating the plant into a packet of foods supplied to thousands of pregnant and nursing women each month.

Mr. Vásquez, the rural development official, said quinoa would also be available in meals for the armed forces and in more school breakfasts. “That’s already under way in some municipalities,” he said, “but we want to expand.”
Some here cling to eating quinoa despite its rising price. Paulina Vásquez, 52, a housekeeper and mother of three children in their 20s who live with her in a poor district on a steep mountainside of La Paz, sows the crop each year on her family’s land outside the city. The packaged quinoa found in supermarkets is beyond what her family can afford.

Instead, they harvest their own, store it and then prepare it by hand, a painstaking process that includes washing away the resinlike saponin coating that protects the seeds. Ms. Vásquez regularly prepares a sweet drink of quinoa, apple, cinnamon and sugar for her family for breakfast. But she says many in the younger generation have moved away from it. “People my age and older are eating quinoa,” Ms. Vásquez said. “The young people don’t want it. If there is a pot of noodles everyone is there, as if noodles were nutritious. Even my children are that way.”

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/20/world/americas/20bolivia.html?action=click&module=Search&region=searchResults&mabReward=relbias%3Ar&url=http%3A%2F%2Fquery.nytimes.com%2Fsearch%2Fsitesearch%2F%3Faction%3Dclick%26region%3D Masthead%26pgtype%3DHomepage%26module%3DSearchSubmit%26contentCollection%3DHomepage%26t%3Dqry%3B2011%2F3

1. Explain at least three positive benefits of the growing quinoa trade.

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2. Explain the negative impacts of the growing quinoa trade.

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3. Traditionally food has been locally provided, but with globalization food can potentially come from anywhere. Predict how can this knowledge be used to address global food issues? Give examples.

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What Makes Houston the Next Great American City?

By Tony Perrottet Smithsonian Magazine July 2013

There’s nothing like being mugged to put a damper on a festive evening, which had begun at the lakeside palace of Farouk Shami, the billionaire businessman and former candidate for governor of Texas. As fine wine flowed and stuffed vine leaves and other Middle Eastern delicacies were served, some 150 guests spilled onto the veranda or wandered the gleaming white corridors, admiring the giant aquariums and Shami’s own brilliantly colored paintings and glass sculptures. Dapper as ever in a suit and cowboy boots, the 70-year-old Shami, founder of a successful line of hair care products, wove through the cosmopolitan crowd, introducing me to his Houston friends, including Miss Texas and Miss Texas USA.

I left that wealthy enclave at around 9 p.m. and drove to the Heights, a gritty but recently gentrified neighborhood, to visit an alternative art center. Lined with tidy 1920s bungalows, the streets seemed quiet and charming. After parking my rental car in the (admittedly dimly lit and empty) block, I walked about ten yards and paused to look at street numbers when I noticed two figures coming toward me. One calmly took the iPhone out of my hand. “It’s only the 4S,” I joked, trying to defuse the situation. “The iPhone 5 is much better.”

That was when the taller guy pulled out a gun.

Even through the dreamlike fog of being robbed, I was aware of the irony. I was here to research a story about “the new Houston” and document how the city is reinventing itself for the 21st century. In the last 24 hours, I’d attended a show at Fashion Week, where the catwalk was lined with artists, writers and designers. I’d visited plush new art galleries. I’d met Houstonians of every origin, from Thai to Nigerian, Ecuadorian, Pakistani and Indonesian. And I’d spent much of the same evening chatting with Shami, a one-man PR firm for Houston who insists the Bayou City is the perfect place for immigrants to realize the American dream.

Then, here I was, transported back to the harsh, violent Houston of the 1970s and ’80s. As I held my arms away from my sides, the shorter guy cleaned my pockets of car keys, loose coins, business cards. Tension rose when he couldn’t pull the wallet out of my jeans pocket. The wedding ring was even harder to remove, but it’s amazing what you can do at gunpoint. The moment was so cinematic I found myself wondering whether the sleek firearm was real. Later, when I mentioned this to locals, they were amused. “Of course it was real! This is Houston. Everyone’s got a gun!”

My interest in exploring America’s fourth-largest city was piqued last year by a study from the Kinder Institute for Urban Research and the Hobby Center for the Study of Texas at Rice University. Out of the ten largest U.S. metropolitan areas, the researchers’ analysis of census data found that the most equitable distribution of the nation’s four major racial and ethnic groups (Asians, Hispanic people, and white and black people who are not Hispanic) was not in New York City or Los Angeles, but, surprisingly, Houston (see opposite).

The people behind the study have long been focused on Houston’s ethnic and cultural transformation, which is more dramatic than that of any other U.S. city in the past century. Stephen L. Klineberg, a sociologist and co-director of the Kinder Institute, has closely charted the demographic changes in Harris County, which covers nearly all of the Houston area and then some, since 1982. “Houston was then an overwhelmingly Anglo city,” he told me. But then the eight-decade-long Texas oil boom fizzled and the city lost 100,000 jobs, mostly among Anglo oil workers, and was plunged into an economic depression that would completely change its population patterns. “In 1980, Anglos made up 63 percent of the population,” Klineberg says. “Now they’re less than 33 percent.” Hispanics in Harris County today constitute 41 percent, he adds, African-Americans 18.4 percent, and Asians and other races 7.8 percent. “The change is even more extreme if you look at the population under 30,” Klineberg says, “where 78 percent are now non-Anglos.”
In the 1960s, New York and L.A. were already vast metropolises, but Houston was a humble outpost of around one million. Since then, aided by the ubiquity of automobiles and air-conditioning, its population has leapt by an average of 20 percent every decade, surging to over four million inhabitants in Harris County and six million within the Greater Houston Metropolitan Area. Much of this growth would alter the area’s ethnic makeup as well, because it took place after 1965, when the nation ended its long-running immigration policy favoring white Western Europeans, and new arrivals were as likely to come from Korea or Congo as Italy and Ireland. In that sense, Houston is the vanguard, Klineberg says: “Houston is 25 years ahead of the rest of the country. Soon all of America will look like this city. There is no force in the world that can stop the United States becoming more Latino, more African-American, more Middle Eastern and Asian. It’s inevitable!”

There are, however, some arguably ominous trends. Perhaps the most disturbing is that, according to the Pew Research Center, Houston is the most income-segregated of the ten largest U.S. metropolitan areas, with the greatest percentage of rich people living among the rich and the third-greatest percentage of poor people among the poor. And the new waves of immigrants are split between highly skilled college graduates (especially Asians), who effortlessly join the upper echelons of Houston, and poorly educated manual laborers (especially Latinos), who trim the lawns and wash restaurant dishes. “The great danger for the future of America is not an ethnic divide but class divide,” Klineberg warns. “And Houston is on the front line, where the gulf between rich and poor is widest. We have the Texas Medical Center, the finest medical facility in the world, but we also have the highest percentage of kids without health care. The inequality is so clear here.” All these forces add urgency to how Houston tackles its problems. “This is where America’s future is going to be worked out.”

If nothing else, the Kinder Institute’s reports underscore how little the country really knows about Houston. Is it, as most New Yorkers and Californians assume, a cultural wasteland? “The only time this city hits the news is when we get a hurricane!” complains James Harithas, director of the Station Museum of Contemporary Art. “People have no idea.” Its image in the outside world is stuck in the 1970s, of a Darwinian frontier city where business interests rule, taxation and regulation are minimal, public services are thin and the automobile is worshiped. “This was boomtown America,” says Klineberg of the giddy oil years. “While the rest of the country was in recession, we were seen as wealthy, arrogant rednecks, with bumper stickers that read, ‘Drive 70 and freeze a Yankee.’” Today, he adds, “Houston has become integrated into the U.S. and global economies, but we still like to think we’re an independent country. We contribute to the image!”

In movies, Houston has served as a metaphor for all that is wrong with urban American life. In the 1983 comedy Local Hero, Burt Lancaster plays an oil CEO who sits in a glass tower plotting environmental devastation, and Houston has been the scene for a disconcerting number of dystopian science fiction movies.

A first-time visitor can still be bewildered by Houston’s sprawl: The population density is less than half that of Los Angeles. It’s the only major U.S. city with no formal zoning code—hence the chaotic and often disheveled urban landscape. Skyscrapers sprout between high schools, strip joints, restaurants and parking lots, all tied into the knots of endless concrete highways. And yet Houston has a thriving art scene, with a startling choice of museums and galleries, and its 17-block theater district claims to have the largest concentration of seats outside of Broadway. Last summer, Forbes declared Houston “the coolest city in America,” based on indices such as the number of cultural venues, the amount of designated green space, and, of course, ethnic diversity. It didn’t hurt that the Houston area has largely brushed off the recent recession, reporting 3.8 percent (non-farm) job growth in 2012, or that the city’s median age is only 32.1, compared with 37.2 for the United States as a whole in 2010.

“We need to reinvent ourselves and improve our image,” says Cressandra Thibodeaux, executive director of 14 Pews, a cinema and gallery in a renovated church, which was set to host the H-Town Multicultural Film Festival, celebrating Houston’s diversity, in June. “You hear about how Pittsburgh and Detroit are going through a renaissance, with new
immigrant cultures and artists changing the city. But people don’t know about how Houston is being transformed. It’s still got the old cowboy hat image, a hot, ugly city, where you just go to work.”

To thwart this stereotype, the first place to visit is the Rothko Chapel. A Modernist masterpiece of religious art, it lies in a verdant oasis of museums, gardens and outdoor sculptures created in the 1960s by two philanthropists flush with oil money, John and Dominique de Menil. (The superb Menil Collection Museum, designed by Renzo Piano, has been a pilgrimage site for international art lovers since it opened in 1987.) The nondenominational chapel is the most serene corner of this leafy precinct: Mark Rothko created 14 rich black, maroon and plum-colored paintings for the octagonal space (designed in part by Philip Johnson), which has meditation cushions for visitors to contemplate the art in silence. On a bench are more than two dozen texts from world religions, including the King James Bible, the Koran, the Torah, the Book of Mormon, and Hindu and Buddhist works. The chapel is a clue that Houston is perhaps a more tolerant and open-minded place than it is given credit for.

Another clue is that Houston is the largest U.S. city to have an openly lesbian mayor, Annise Parker, a Democrat, who has pressed President Obama to act on gay marriage, which is banned in Texas.

Clearly, a lot more is happening in Houston—nicknamed The Big Heart after the city and its people aided Hurricane Katrina victims—than concrete freeways. So I sought out four people for anecdotal evidence of the city’s unexpected new life.

Only two miles east of the manicured Museum District lies the Third Ward, for decades one of the city’s poorest African-American neighborhoods—and the site of Houston’s most ambitious creative project, the brainchild of artist Rick Lowe.

In 1993, Lowe and others began renovating a block of derelict shotgun shacks into gallery spaces, creating Project Row Houses. He was inspired by the idea of “social sculpture,” pioneered by the artists Joseph Beuys and John Biggers, who argued that any way we shape the world around us is a form of art, including urban renovation. Today, seven formerly abandoned houses, some of which had been used for drugs and prostitution, are exhibition spaces for resident artists, who participate in community life. Another row of salvaged houses, sporting neat lawns and gleaming white paint, is occupied by single mothers. Their success has brought life back to the neighborhood, and has been a springboard for renovations across the Third Ward. Abandoned venues have been given practical functions and turned into social hubs. An old speakeasy has been reborn as a laundromat. The Eldorado Ballroom, where B.B. King, Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington played, has been rescued from dereliction and once again stages music events. “From the 1940s to the ‘60s, the Third Ward was known as Little Harlem,” says Project Row Houses’ public art curator, Ryan Dennis. “There was a tailor’s shop in this building for musicians. The Temptations flew to Houston just to get their suits cut here.”

When I arrived to talk with Lowe, I found him playing dominoes with a trio of older artists at an outside table in the sunshine. After he’d finished—the game is a community ritual, he explained, which he never interrupts—we took a walk through the galleries, which contained sculptures made from antique doors, video installations of men recounting their romantic lives and a studio where the performance artist Autumn Knight was rehearsing for her show, Roach Dance. Lowe, who is tall and lean and was raised in rural Alabama, first came to the city on a road trip in 1984, he said. “Houston is a good place for an artist to stretch dollars. The rents are low, there are lots of wide open spaces, there’s cheap Mexican food.” Undaunted by the economic depression of the ‘80s (“When you’re poor, everywhere is depressed!”), he found the city’s independent creative spirit addictive. “I thought I’d stay for a couple of years. It’s 28 now.”

The genesis of Project Row Houses dates back to 1992, Lowe recalls, when he was volunteering at a community center in the Third Ward and saw city officials being given a bus tour of Houston’s dangerous places. “They stopped right in front of this row of buildings and were told that this was the very worst spot in Houston.” The next year, he decided to salvage the same blighted stretch. For Lowe, the city’s lack of regulation and zoning encourages artists as well as businesses to carry out plans that might seem impossible elsewhere. “This is a private initiative city,” he says. “If you have an idea and you want to do it, Houston is one of the best places in America to be, because nobody is going to put anything in your
The city’s makeshift, unfinished nature fosters a libertarian spirit and home-spun creativity. In the shadow of Interstate 10 northwest of downtown, the Art Car Museum showcases the Houstonian folk tradition of turning its ubiquitous motor vehicles into mobile sculptures—giant rabbits or cockroaches, cars covered in plastic fruit, or bristling with silver spikes, adorned with lurid mannequins or crocodile skulls. “We get participants from all walks of life,” says the director, Noah Edmundson, a goateed figure in a black leather coat who worked in the oil fields before becoming an artist. “Doctors, actresses, bank clerks, gas station attendants...” He says the populist tradition goes back to 1903, when an Oldsmobile dealership started the Notsuoh Parade (Houston spelled backward), with cars decorated in papier-mâché. “They used to drive to the debutante ball and party for a week.” On the other side of town, from 1956 to 1979, a postman named Jeff McKissack created a folk-art labyrinth from mosaics, stucco and found objects like tractor seats, all devoted to his favorite fruit—the orange—and the spirit of “healthy living.” (The space is still maintained as the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art.) And on weekends, one can visit a bungalow covered with thousands of flattened beer cans, from which a retired railroad upholsterer named John Milkovisch and his wife drank over 18 years, starting in 1968. “They say every man should leave something to be remembered by,” Milkovisch noted of his work.

At the Station Museum of Contemporary Art, a group show was a multicultural spread of works from eight Houston artists originally from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. “Over 100 languages are spoken in Houston,” says director James Harithas, formerly of the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C. “It’s the oil capital of the world, one of the wealthiest cities on the planet, so it follows that the art scene here over the last decade has become rich in every way.” According to chief curator Alan Schnitger, artists began arriving in the late 1990s for the cheap rents, but stayed for the sense of independence. “It used to be that Houston galleries just reflected what was going on elsewhere. But now they’ve found their own voice.” The Station is nothing if not irreverent. “What’s happening in New York these days is more about fashion,” says Harithas. “It’s not meaningful. We’re anti-corporation, anti-empire, anti-government. We’ll say whatever the hell we want to say.” One recent exhibition, “Crude,” addressed the power of the oil industry, with oil pumped through giant glass letters that spelled the words “justice,” “democracy,” and, in an apparent dig at President Obama, “Yes We Can.” “A lot of our wars started right here in Houston,” Harithas says. “They’re all about oil! And funnily, a lot of oil executives came to see the show. They seemed to like it.”

“Houston loves Chloe!” roared the emcee, as a parade of models hit the catwalk wearing the designer Chloe Dao’s latest line. “Chloe loves Houston!”

It was the height of Houston Fashion Week, a title that not long ago might have sounded like an oxymoron, provoking cruel jokes about rhinestone-encrusted denim. But the event is as elegant as anything in Paris or New York. After the models, the star of the evening emerged to a standing ovation. Chloe Dao, a Vietnamese immigrant, became “Houston’s sweetheart” when she won the reality-TV competition “Project Runway” in 2006. Her life story itself sounds like a miniseries. At age 5, Dao made a dramatic escape from Communist-run Laos in 1976 with her parents and seven sisters. Now the poster girl for immigrant success, she is asked to give inspirational speeches across Houston, such as at the America’s Table Thanksgiving Breakfast.

I met Dao at the somewhat surreal after-party in a pop-up nightclub downtown. “Even in Houston, I had a very Asian upbringing,” Dao told me over the pulsing bass. “But I also had an all-American childhood. I was a cheerleader, I was on the tennis team, I was president of the Latin Club.” The blend of cultures has served her well: The Ao Dai style of traditional Vietnamese fashion, she says, has influenced her designs, which have “a very clean aesthetic, with straight lines and high mandarin necks.”
“But you really should meet my mother,” she adds. “She’s the real immigrant success story.”

So we all meet a couple of days later in Houston’s new “Chinatown”—which is no longer really a district but an endless Asian mall extending along a highway west of downtown. (“You never have to speak English out there if you don’t want to,” Dao said. “You can go to a Vietnamese doctor, a Vietnamese dentist, a Vietnamese hairdresser…” Its counterpart in the Indian community is the Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu temple, an enormous complex of gleaming limestone towers, pillars and domes in Stafford, a city in the Houston metro area.) At the boisterous Kim Son Buffet restaurant, I greet Chloe’s mother, Hue Thuc Luong, a neatly coiffed businesswoman. Chloe had never asked her mother for the full details of their escape from Laos, and over the next hour, they prompt one another’s memories. Hue Thuc Luong explains that, soon after the Communist takeover in 1975, she began planning the family’s escape to Thailand. The family began growing rice in fields outside their village, near Pakse, and pretended to the revolutionary cadres that all eight daughters were needed to work them. The father, Thu Thien Dao, who was experienced as a cobbler, sewed $200 into the soles of each girl’s sandals. (“We used them as pillows at night to make sure nobody stole them!” Chloe recalls.) One dusk, the whole family slipped from the rice fields into the jungle, for an all-night hike in the darkness.

“I thought I was going to die,” Chloe says. “We were all terrified, and our mouths were white from thirst.” In the morning, they paid smugglers to canoe them across a river into Thailand, where they were promptly arrested. They spent three days in a jail with prostitutes (“They were very nice to us!” Chloe recalls. “Eight little girls!”) before being transferred to a refugee camp. Hue Thuc soon started up her own business there, selling vegetables hut to hut. “I had to do something!” she says with a laugh. For two years, she carried 20 pails of water a day from a nearby river. “I’m very strong,” she says, offering her flexed biceps. “Feel my arm muscles!”

When, in 1979, the United States accepted the family as part of a refugee resettlement program, they knew almost nothing about Houston. Assuming all of America was wintry compared with Laos, Hue Thuc knitted each of the girls a red woolen sweater; wearing the sweaters when they arrived in the Texas heat, they nearly collapsed. “I was more worried than excited,” the mother remembers. “I went to the supermarket to buy American candy and grapes, and I sat in my room and ate them all!” At the time, the Vietnamese community was tiny, with only one small grocery store. As she took on three jobs to feed her eight daughters—on weekends dragooning the whole family to operate a snack bar at a market with Asian delicacies—she never imagined that Chloe would one day study at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York or return to Houston to run a popular boutique.

Mother and daughter maintain a close working relationship. “I always run my designs by my mom,” Chloe says. “She has an excellent eye.”

In Houston, food is a barometer of change. True to its culinary roots, there is no shortage of traditional barbecue venues in the city. But now chefs from all corners of the world are offering much more exotic fare.

“Have you ever eaten grasshoppers?” Hugo Ortega asks me, in the middle of a conversation about immigration. “They’re a real delicacy.”

Ortega’s high-end Mexican restaurant, Hugo’s, with its soaring ceiling, exposed wooden beams and bustling ambiance, is a surreal place to hear about his beginnings. His arrival in the city in 1984, at the age of 17, could not have been less auspicious. It was his third attempt to enter the United States, crossing the Rio Grande in an inflatable boat. The first two attempts had ended when he and four friends, led by a coyote who was promised $500 a head if they made it to their destination, had been caught by U.S. border patrols, cufféd and sent back to Mexico. On the third attempt, they managed to hide in a freight train to San Antonio, where they were smuggled to Houston with 15 others crammed in a remodeled Chevrolet Impala, with Ortega in the trunk. (“It was pretty scary, because I was smelling fumes,” he recalls.) By the time the friends were dropped off in downtown Houston, Ortega’s cousin could barely recognize them. “We had been going 17 days since we left our village, and we were so dirty and skinny,” Ortega says with a rueful smile. “I remember my cousin’s face, he didn’t believe it was us!”
Ortega spent almost four years bouncing from place to place in Houston, staying with different relatives and even sleeping on the streets for two weeks, until some friendly immigrants from El Salvador took pity on him and gave him a place to stay. They also got him a job as a dishwasher at the Backstreet Café, run by Tracy Vaught, the young Anglo restaurateur he would eventually marry. In the 1980s, interracial romance was still contentious, and they kept it secret from Vaught’s parents. Finally, he met her family one Thanksgiving in the starchy River Oaks Country Club—including the matriarch, Vaught’s grandmother, who was very warm and welcoming. (“I was the only Mexican there. At least the only Mexican being served!”) Ortega gained his green card during the amnesty of 1987, put himself through cooking school and today he and Vaught operate three leading Houston restaurants and have a 16-year-old daughter.

“I’ve come full circle,” Ortega says. “When I first arrived in Houston, I missed my grandmother’s cooking so bad! She would make tamales, mole, tortillas. And now here I am cooking the same food I had as a child.” He hands me morsels of octopus charred in lemon and chile, and escamoles, which are ant eggs, sautéed in butter and eaten with tamales. “God put me in this position. He said: This is your reward.”

Farouk Shami, who was born in a village near Ramallah on the West Bank of the Jordan River, arrived in the United States in 1965 at age 23 with, he recalls, $400 in his pocket. While working as a hairdresser in Houston he began to realize that he was allergic to hair dye. Though his family objected to his involvement in the industry, which they regarded as effeminate, he was spurred to create the first non-ammonia hair coloring system, a breakthrough in “cosmetic chemistry” that would lead to his own beauty product line, Farouk Systems. His privately held company, which he has said is worth a billion dollars, manufactures some 1,000 hair and spa products that are distributed in 106 countries. In 2009, he made national headlines by going against the outsourcing flow, closing a factory in China and building a new facility in Houston, which created some 800 jobs. The next year, he became the first (and so far, only) Arab-American to run for governor of Texas. Despite being defeated in the Democratic primaries, Shami spiced up the political debate by saying he preferred to hire Latino workers because Anglos felt above the menial work on factory floors and by criticizing the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, where three of his eight siblings were killed in 1955 when an Israeli bomb they were playing with exploded.

Shami told me his story while we relaxed in an office in his sumptuous mansion, beneath a framed photograph of his father. He is still full of energy—he was preparing to leave for Istanbul the next morning—and is one of the most active members of Houston’s Arab community, the nation’s fifth largest. “Actually, I never felt discrimination until I ran for governor in 2010,” he says. “I was a Texan, but in the media I was always referred to as a foreigner—‘born in the West Bank.’ I’ve paid more tax than most Texans, helped the country more than most Texans!” In speeches to Palestinian immigrant youth groups, he encourages integration. “My theme is: Be an American! Unfortunately, the minds of many young Palestinians are still back home. When in Rome, do as the Romans do. Go participate in American life! Go vote! They need to be mobilized.”

Shami’s political partisanship aside, the role of ethnic diversity in Houston politics intrigues scholars as well as politicians. “Why Texas still keeps voting Republican is a mystery,” Klineberg says. “Every election, there are 3 percent fewer Anglos on the rolls. Immigrants, who traditionally support the Republicans far less, aren’t registering as fast here as in other states.” But the tide is turning, he says, which he thinks will cause hard-line opponents of immigration reform to moderate their views.

“Not everyone is happy about the transitions over the last few years,” Klineberg says. “For most of its history, this was a biracial Southern city, a racist city, part of the Confederacy. But human beings adjust their opinions to suit circumstances they can’t control. Our surveys show that more and more Anglo residents are accepting the inevitable, and even saying that ethnic diversity is a source of strength for Houston.”

For Klineberg, the major social issue is education. He has seen Houston change from a city relying on natural resources such as oil, cattle and lumber to one whose prosperity is based primarily on skilled white-collar jobs in fields such as
computer programming and medicine. But as long as a top-quality education remains a privilege of the rich, social inequalities will grow. “The public school system has largely been abandoned by middle-class white people,” he says. “The question is, will aging Anglos be willing to pay to educate poor Latinos? If not, it’s hard to envision a prosperous future for Houston.”

Still, Klineberg is optimistic. “Houston is in a better position to cope with all these challenges than Los Angeles, Miami or New York,” he says. “The DNA of Houston, ever since it was founded, has been pragmatic: What do we have to do to make money? From the 1860s, we made Houston the railroad hub of the West. Then, to exploit the oil fields, we built the second-biggest port in the U.S., even though it was 50 miles from the sea. The same practical thinking needs to come into play today. How do we turn our diversity to advantage? We invest in education. And we make Houston a more beautiful city, so talented people who can live anywhere will choose to live here.” On that front, voters last November approved a $100 million bond that will be matched by the Houston Parks Board and private donations to create 1,500 acres of green space along the city’s bayous over the next seven years.

The other issues will be tougher. “Luckily, in Houston,” Klineberg adds, “ideology has always been less important than prosperity.”


1. Explain some of the circumstances that have lead people to migrate to Houston from all over the world. How is this a reflection of the United States as a whole?

2. Describe how diversity has impacted Houston culturally. Explain specific examples.

3. How has cultural diversity impacted the city of Houston economically? Think of positives, negatives and long term impacts.
Sustainable Earth: Cities
Andrew Curry  National Geographic News

The world's concrete jungles don't have the best reputation when it comes to being environmentally friendly. Think "city," and most of us picture unappealing vistas: gridlocked cars, smoggy horizons, and landfills overflowing with urban debris.

Yet demographers say the majority of the world's population already lives in urban areas; by 2050, three-quarters of the people on Earth will live in cities. Most of the action toward urbanization is taking place in the developing world. Urban areas occupy just 2 percent of the Earth, but consume 60 to 80 percent of the world's energy and produce 75 percent of carbon emissions. (See the National Geographic magazine feature "City Solutions" from December 2011.)

Does the trend towards urbanization spell disaster? Maybe not. Recent research suggests those numbers may be deceptive. In fact, the typical urban resident produces less CO2 than average for the country they live in. The average American is responsible for 23 tons of CO2 per year; the average Washingtonian, just 19.7—and New Yorkers generate only 7.1 tons apiece.

That's because cities offer opportunities for efficiency in a way sprawling suburbs and scattered rural areas simply can't. Small apartments are easier to heat and cool than suburban homes, dense cities make public transit an attractive option, and stacking offices makes them more efficient to manage. In other words, the "concrete jungle" is actually a lot greener than it looks.

At the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the debate over managing this urban transition will focus on how smart urban planning—from efficient and clean public transport to a realistic appraisal of how migration from the countryside to cities works—can make the most of these efficiencies.
China alone is undergoing one of the most dramatic demographic revolutions the world has ever seen. In the past 30 years, more than a quarter of the Asian giant's population has moved from farms and small villages in the countryside to booming cities like Shenzhen, Beijing, Shanghai, and Wuhan. Over the next 20 years, 15 to 20 million people each year will flood into Chinese cities.

All those new city dwellers will need places to live and work, making China the world's biggest de facto urban planning laboratory. Experts estimate that more than 1,500 skyscrapers will be built in China every year for decades to come; dozens of Chinese cities will need mass transport systems built from scratch. To put that all in context, China must build the equivalent of one Chicago-sized city each year for the next two decades.

China's far from alone. With their booming populations, countries like India, Brazil, and Indonesia are at the forefront of the urban future.

The potential is tremendous, but that doesn't mean the future of the city will be smooth. Urban planners must overcome challenges like traffic congestion, a shortage of adequate housing, and declining infrastructure. While cities are more efficient, they also concentrate demand for resources such as power and water, making it vital for planners to look beyond the city limits.

And authoritarian, centrally planned city designs like China's—efficient, perhaps, but often far from democratic—may not be a model many countries want to emulate.

There's no doubt the world of the future will be urban. The challenge confronting us today is whether we can make that world an efficient and sustainable one.

1. When it comes to urbanization, what images do people typically envision when they think of modern cities?

2. What changes are being made to alter this image of cities? How are they becoming more environmentally friendly?

3. Which do you believe is more sustainable, rural or urban life? Support your answer with evidence.
Map

Now you will locate all of the places you just read about. You can use an atlas or google maps to help you label them on the map. The equator and prime meridian also need to be added exactly where they belong. Lastly, label the compass. More maps can be found at www.ineedgeography.com

Detroit, Michigan
Washington, D.C.
Bangladesh
South Korea
The United States of America
Europe
Sri Lanka
China
La Paz, Bolivia
Andes Mountains
Argentina
Chile
Houston, Texas
Thailand
Nigeria
Indonesia
New York City
Los Angeles
Korea
Congo
Italy
Ireland
California
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
Alabama
Mexico
Philadelphia
Florida
Paris, France
Vietnam
Thailand
Laos
Rio Grande River
San Antonio, Texas
El Salvador
West Bank, Israel
Jordan River
Israel
Istanbul, Turkey
Rome, Italy
Miami, Florida
Washington
Shenzhen, China
Wuhan, China
Beijing, China
Shanghai, China
Brazil
Indonesia

Add any six places you want to the map.

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Play

You will play a few rounds of the following games and respond to the questions. If you do not have internet access on your phone or at your home, you can go to the public library and use the computers there. These games and many more can be found at www.ineedgeography.com

1. Go to http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/Geography.htm

   ➔ Click on The World

      World Geography Games

   ➔ Start with the Level 1 and work your way up through Level 4
   ➔ Which region of the world did you have the most difficulty with? ____________________
   ➔ Which level did you find the most challenging? ______________________
   ➔ Now go back to the map quizzes home page, pick any region of the world and practice your map skills!

2. Go to http://3rdworldfarmer.com/

   ➔ Click on

      Play

   ➔ Be sure to read the directions and the annual report at the end of each round.

      ANNUAL REPORT

      Peanut Harvest Falls
      Poor weather conditions this year kill off all peanut fields in the area. (You lose all peanut crops. If you have a crop insurance, it pays out, and crop yield is calculated)

      SUMMARY
      • You now have
      • 3 family mem

   ➔ Pay attention to the outcomes of your farming decisions and what challenges you face.
   ➔ Play for at least 10 turns

   ➔ How many rounds did you play? _______ How many family members did you end up with? _______? How much money did you have on your last turn? _______
   ➔ Explain some of the things you decided to spend your money on in the game and why?
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

   ➔ What were some of the challenges your family faced as the years went on?
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   1. The game will place you somewhere on Earth using Google Maps street view. You can use the little hand to grab the image and spin around. Clicking on the arrows will allow you to walk down the street.

   ![Navigation](image1.png)

   2. Explore a little bit and then decide where you think this place is located. Click on the World map to place a marker and make your guess. You can adjust the map and zoom in before you place the marker.

   ![Marker](image2.png)

   ➔ Play at least three rounds of five guesses each. Record your scores and the dates played here.

   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

   ➔ You only need to enter your first name and country to register.

   **Enter your name**

   ____________________________________________

   ➔ Play at least five days. Record your scores and the dates played here.

   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
Explore

Go somewhere. It doesn’t matter where. You could walk to the grocery store, a park, Galveston, your Abuelita's casa, the library, a restaurant, vacation in Mexico or visit a museum. Pick a place, any place that you can get to and go there. Now describe that place economically, socially, politically and environmentally.

Economically- Was money needed to create this place, if so, where do you think it came from? Is there money exchanged here, if so why? Is there a potential for economic opportunity here? Does this place have any kind of economic impact on the surrounding community?

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Socially- Who is in this place? Where did they come from? What languages do they speak? Why are they in this place? What purpose does this place serve for them (recreational, functional, religious, people go there for a reason)? How would you describe the atmosphere (formal, laid back, entertaining)? What cultures will you find there and how would you describe them?

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__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Politically- What political boundaries is this place inside of (city, state, national)? Who controls this area, makes decisions about the land and protects it? What type of government controls the area?

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Environmentally- How would you describe the environment to someone who isn’t there? Is it man made or natural? If it is man made, what was there before? What are the potential environmental impacts of this place?

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__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Is there anything else you want to share about this place?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
Now map it! Include a title, compass and key.
Watch

You will watch the following videos and respond to the questions in complete sentences. You might want to turn on the closed captions as you watch because some of these videos move along pretty quickly. Feel free to pause them if you need to look a word up. As always, you can find more interesting videos at www.ineedgeography.com

1. Five Human Impacts on the Environment by Crash Course- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eTCZ9L834s

What are the five ways humans impact the environment?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Pick three of the five Impacts. Now discuss the causes and consequences of them.

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__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. The Columbian Exchange by Crash Course- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQPA5oNpfM4

Describe some of the positive and negative impacts of the Columbian exchange.

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Give examples of which ideas, goods, animals and diseases were spread during this time and how that influenced cultures on both sides of the exchange.

__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________
3. The Industrial Revolution by Crash Course- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhL5DCizj5c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhL5DCizj5c)

What would you say was the single largest impact of the industrial revolution? Explain and defend your answer.

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Explain and discuss some of the reasons why Europe led the industrial revolution.

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_________________________________________________________________________________________
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_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

4. World Englishes on TED- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBYsuohdKs4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBYsuohdKs4)

The first time you watch this video, listen to all of the different English accents and see if you can recognize any of them. Explain why so many people around the world would possibly speak English as a primary or secondary language. Also, what are the benefits of having so many English speakers and what are the potential consequences for native cultures?

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Watch the video a second time listening to the topics they are speaking about. Nearly every one connects back to Geography. Which global issues would you like to learn more about this year? What questions do you have for your teacher?

_________________________________________________________________________________________
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There are more great TED videos to watch at [https://www.youtube.com/user/TEDtalksDirector/playlists?view=1&sort=dd&shelf_id=6](https://www.youtube.com/user/TEDtalksDirector/playlists?view=1&sort=dd&shelf_id=6)

Equally interesting are TED Ed videos [https://www.youtube.com/user/TEDEducation](https://www.youtube.com/user/TEDEducation)

Of course you should watch as many of the Crash Course History and Ecology videos as you can stand at [https://www.youtube.com/user/crashcourse](https://www.youtube.com/user/crashcourse)