

City Challenges

1 Worldwide, cities
gain a million people
a week. This kind
of **growth** brings
5 problems, and today
many of the world's
largest cities face
similar **challenges**:
high housing costs,
10 pollution, and crime
(to name a few). What are some urban planners
doing to **fix** these problems and improve people's lives?



▲ São Paulo, Brazil.
Worldwide, cities grow
by a million people
a week.

Hyderabad, India (population: more than five million)

15 To improve residents' lives, Hyderabad is planting
trees and parks. The city is even creating "greener"
buildings that use less water and less **electricity** for
power. Adding green to a city has a number of
advantages. For example, trees **remove** pollution
20 from the air and make it cleaner. In Hyderabad,
streets were gray and **ugly** a few years ago. Today,
they are filled with trees and flowers, making the city
cleaner and more **colorful**. Green areas also give
people places to relax or **exercise** and walk. A study
25 in the U.S. showed something else interesting: the
greener a neighborhood¹ is, the less crime there is
against people and **property**—especially buildings and cars.



▲ In the city of Hyderabad,
an old factory is now an
urban park.

São Paulo, Brazil (population: more than eighteen million)

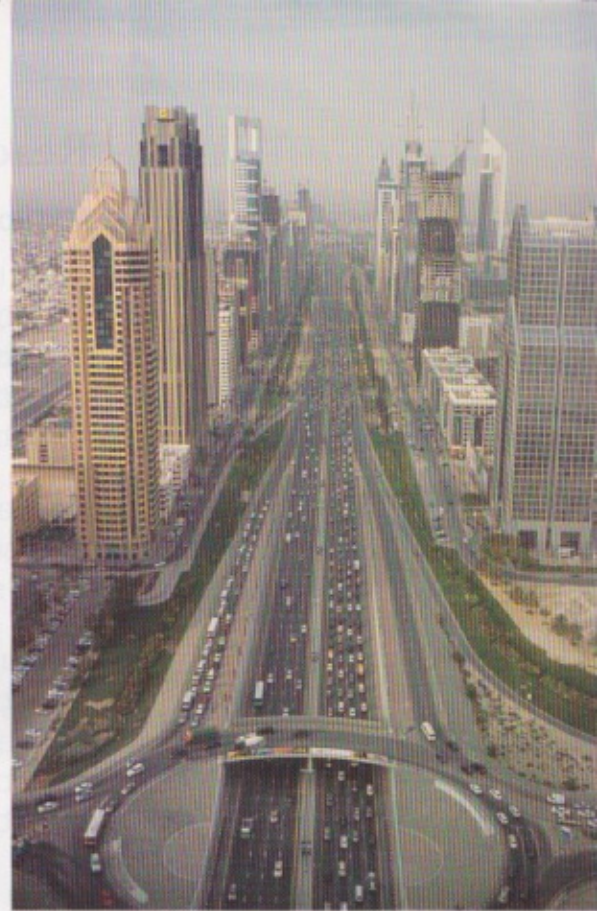
30 Many people work in the center of São Paulo, but they don't
live there. They've spread out to neighborhoods outside the
city, where housing is cheaper. Every day, these people travel
into the city, and **traffic** is very heavy. Urban planners are using
different strategies to address this issue. First, they are building
better subways.² Another goal is to make it cheaper for people
to live in the downtown area. Doing this will shorten the
35 distance people travel for work and reduce traffic and pollution
in the city.



¹ A **neighborhood** is one of the parts of a city where people live.

² A **subway** is an underground railroad. It is a type of public transportation in a city.

DUBAI: THEN AND NOW



1 Dubai is like no other place on Earth. It is the world capital of living large—a city of big business, luxury¹ hotels, skyscrapers, and huge shopping malls. In the early 20th century, Dubai was a

5 **successful** trading port. People from all over the world stopped in Dubai to do business. But it was still a small city, and most people lived as fishermen, merchants, or by raising animals. Then in 1966, oil was discovered. In time, this

10 brought a lot of money into the region, and soon Dubai began to change.

Today Dubai is one of the world's most influential business centers. In fact, each year most of the city's **annual** earnings come from business, not oil.

15 The city is also a **global** trading port.

▲ Dubai is one of the world's fastest growing cities.

Recently Dubai has become a popular spot for **tourists**. People from abroad come to relax on its beaches, and every year, millions visit just to go shopping!

Dubai is also one of the world's fastest growing cities.

20 **Construction** is everywhere. Buildings (some of the tallest on Earth) are built in months. The city also has a number of man-made islands. One of these, the Palm Jumeirah, is **shaped** like a palm tree and is **particularly** beautiful.

The city is still an amazing mix of people from different

25 backgrounds. Individuals from 150 countries live and work in Dubai, and foreigners now outnumber² Dubai natives eight to one!

Did You Know?

Dubai has more shopping malls per person than any other city in the world.

Many people **welcome** the city's growth. But an **increasing** number of Dubai natives have concerns³ about the speed of

30 change. As Mohammad Al Abbar, a Dubai businessman, says, "We must always remember where we came from. Our **kids** must know we worked very, very hard to get where we are now, and there's a lot more work to do."

¹ **Luxury** is very great comfort, especially relating to beautiful and expensive things.

² If one group of people **outnumbers** another, the first group has more people than the second group.

³ A **concern** is a worry about a situation.