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Curriculum: Human Geography 11

Lesson Title: Tokyo to go!

Key vocabulary:

- Population Density, urbanization, infrastructure

Targeted Learning Objectives:

- Students will develop a greater understanding of demographic patterns of movement
- Students will develop a greater understanding of how increased urbanization influences societies and environments

Lesson Overview:

Students will consider the needs and challenges that the city of Vancouver faces in providing public transit. In drawing a comparison with a major city with a well-developed transportation system such as Tokyo, students will understand how urbanization impacts the movement of people.

Outcomes for Student Learning:

Students will understand the role of transportation infrastructure in allowing for the smooth and efficient movement of people. Additionally, students will apply the concept of population density to the need for, and construction of, mass public transit.

Suggested Time Frame:

1 class (approximately 60 mins.)

Instructional Resources:

Teacher will require a copy of the video “Urban Railways of JR East” or must find a video on YouTube that demonstrates the Metro and Train system in Japan. As well, each student will need a copy of the Tokyo subway systems – available on line at:

http://www.tokyometro.jp/en/subwaymap/pdf/rosen_en_1702.pdf

Alternately, students can download the Tokyo Subway App or use Google Transit if they prefer.

Student Resources:

Pen, paper

Instructional Procedure:

1. In groups of 3-4, students are to brainstorm the following questions: What transportation infrastructure does Vancouver have in place? What would you improve about Vancouver's transportation infrastructure if you could? How are urbanization and population density changing the city? (Approx. 10 minutes)
2. Students share their answers with the class and discuss the questions in further detail. Follow up questions: how is transportation structured in other cities? Have you visited/travelled to places with better transportation infrastructure? If so, which cities are best? (15 minutes)
3. Students watch the video "Urban Railways of JR East". While watching, they are to make note of transportation ideas or solutions that they would like to see implemented in Vancouver. (15 minutes)
4. Students share their ideas and reactions to the video. What differences exist between Vancouver and Tokyo that result in such different systems? (10 minutes)
5. For homework, students are to use their copy of the Tokyo Metro System or Google Transit to plan the following:

You are visiting Tokyo and are staying in the Asakusa Area. Today you are planning to visit the following locations: Shinjuku Gyoen National garden, Meiji Jingu Shrine and the Shibuya Pedestrian Scramble, and must plan out your station routes from one location to the next. Additionally, how long will it take to get from one location to the next and return to your hotel area?

Compare this with Vancouver, you are staying in Burnaby in the Metrotown area. You wish to visit the Museum of Anthropology, Granville Island and the Cruise Ship Terminal and must plan your route between locations. How long will it take to get from one location to the next and return to your home area?

After completing each transportation plan, which city would you prefer to use public transit in and why? What would you change or improve about the transportation in the city you did not choose? What can be done to make transportation more user-friendly and efficient in each location?

Formative Assessment:

Students will be assessed on their completion of the two daily itineraries as well as on the quality of writing and analysis in regards to the follow up questions.

Suggested Modifications/Extensions:

Students could be required to plan a longer trip in each city. Additionally, students could compare two cities that are more equal in terms of their population density and transit systems (Tokyo and Paris, for example).