

# 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)

To improve residents' lives, Hyderabad is planting  
15 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  
from the air and make it cleaner. In Hyderabad,  
20 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  
in the U.S. showed something else interesting: the  
25 greener a neighborhood<sup>1</sup> 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)

Many people work in the center of São Paulo, but they don't  
live there. They've spread out to neighborhoods outside the  
30 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.<sup>2</sup> Another goal is to make it cheaper for people  
to live in the downtown area. Doing this will shorten the  
distance people travel for work and reduce traffic and pollution  
in the city.

<sup>1</sup> A **neighborhood** is one of the parts of a city where people live.

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