Trowels in our towns and cows in our cities

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Learn new vocabulary around urban architecture, expressions to use to introduce your opinons and comprehension exercises.

Introduction – **Questions and Answers**

With your partner or teacher, ask and answer the questions below

1. What does 'Urban Agriculture mean to you?
2. Do you live nearer to a fast food restaurant or a supermarket?
3. Where do you shop for food?
4. Where is your favourite place to eat out?
5. Do you support your local market or do you buy from the supermarkets?
6. What does 'fresh food' mean to you?

Activity One **–Connection**

Review the words and expressions. Try and connect them to their correct definitions in the table below

Vocabulary

Striking feature

Organic

Irrigation system

Relict

Immigrants

Urbanisation



Definitions

To make an area more industrialised

A way of supplying land with water by means of artificial canals, ditches etc...

Pesticide-free, naturally produced food

Something old and left behind

Something very noticeable or unusual

Someone who has come to live in a country from another country

Activity Two – Reading Comprehension
https://www.ruaf.org/urban-agriculture-what-and-why
Read the text below and then answer the comprehension questions

What is urban agriculture?

Urban agriculture can be defined shortly as the growing of plants and the raising of animals within and around cities. The most striking feature of urban agriculture, which distinguishes it from rural agriculture, is that it is integrated into the urban economic and ecological system: urban agriculture is embedded in -and interacting with- the urban ecosystem. Such linkages include the use of urban residents as labourers, use of typical urban resources (like organic waste as compost and urban wastewater for irrigation), direct links with urban consumers, direct impacts on urban ecology (positive and negative), being part of the urban food system, competing for land with other urban functions, being influenced by urban policies and plans, etc. Urban agriculture is not a relict of the past that will fade away (urban agriculture increases when the city grows) nor brought to the city by rural immigrants that will loose their rural habits over time. It is an integral part of the urban system.

In each city a further specification of urban agriculture is possible by looking at the following dimensions:

Types of actors involved.
Types of location
Types of products grown
Types of economic activities
Product destination/degree of market orientation
Scales of production and technology used



Why urban agriculture?

The rapid urbanization that is taking place goes together with a rapid increase in urban poverty and urban food insecurity.
Most cities in developing countries have great difficulties to cope with this development and are unable to create sufficient formal employment opportunities for the poor. They also have increasing problems with the disposal of urban wastes and waste water and maintaining air and river water quality. Urban agriculture provides a complementary strategy to reduce urban poverty and food insecurity and enhance urban environmental management. Urban agriculture plays an important role in enhancing urban food security since the costs of supplying and distributing food to urban areas based on rural production and imports continue to increase, and do not satisfy the demand, especially of the poorer sectors of the population. Next to food security, urban agriculture contributes to local economic development, poverty alleviation and social inclusion of the urban poor and women in particular, as well as to the greening of the city and the productive reuse of urban wastes (see below for further explanations and examples). The importance of urban agriculture is increasingly being recognised by international organisations like UN-Habitat and FAO (World Food and Agriculture Organisation).

Comprehension questions

1. What is urban agriculture?
2. Who does it use as labour?
3. Does it have a positive or negative impact on urban ecology?
4. What part does it play in the urban system?
5. What do cities have problems with?
6. Which organisations recognise urban agriculture?



Activity Three – Listening Activity

Watch the video and answer the questions below

https://www.ted.com/talks/devita_davison_how_urban_agriculture_is_transforming_detroit

(The first 4:15 minutes of the video)

1. What is there a scarcity of in Detroit?
2. What percentage of Detroit citizens are obese and why?
3. How are Detroit citizens changing?
4. What assets does Detroit have?
5. How much of the city is vacant?
6. What does Detroit have? (5 things)
7. What have they transformed Detroit into?
8. What are they building in these places as well as providing fresh foods?

Activity four – Opinions

Expressions to talk about your opinions



Personal point of view -

I strongly believe that…
I suppose that…
In my opinion…
It seems to me that…
I am not sure/certain but…
In my experience…
To my mind…
As far as I am concerned…
As far as I understand…

General point of view -

Some people say that…
It is often said that…
It is generally accepted that…
According to scientists…
It is thought that…
Apparently…
It is considered…
The research seems to suggest...

Activity five – Discussion topics

Express your opinions about the following points using the expressions from the previous activity.

- Do you think that urban farming takes up too much space in cities where houses could be built?
- What are your thoughts on 'too little too late'. Do you think this will solve food shortage problems?
- Do you think that the cost of setting up and growing in these environment outweighs the positives?
- What is your opinion on creating more urban farming throughout cities?

Activity Six – Role plays

Act out the following role plays with your teacher

- You are talking to a business partner about the logistics of setting up your own urban farms in your city, but they have some concerns.
- There is a farm set up in the city but there is a shortage of living space for the residents. The government want to shut the farm down, but you have to argue their benefits
- You explain the advantages and give your opinions on why setting up an urban farm would be a big advantage for your city.

