

Urban Farming

Mario Wezel is a German photographer who takes photos for National Geographic. Mario is interested in urban farming, so many of his photos show farmers and gardeners. However, urban farming is different from traditional farming. It's when people farm and garden in the middle of the city.

Mario traveled to urban farms all over the US. In Boston, one man has bees on the roof of the Lenox Hotel. The hotel uses honey from the bees in its restaurant. In San Francisco, there's a small farm next to the Giants' baseball stadium. When people watch the game, they can also buy sandwiches from the farm with fresh vegetables! And in Washington, DC, volunteers can help in a garden at the White House.

For Mario, the most surprising urban farm is at San Quentin State Prison, in California. The prison has a garden and, once a week, prisoners can take a gardening class. They learn how to grow plants and flowers. Working in the garden is also therapeutic.

Mario's photos are all of the US, but you can find urban farms in a lot of different countries and large cities, such as Tokyo, Lima, and Perth. That's because about 3.5 billion people (half the world's population) live in cities today and they want fresh, healthy food. And more and more people think urban farming is the answer to the world's food **shortages**, as well as to making our cities greener and more relaxing.

shortages when there is not enough of something

B Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Who is the photographer?
2. What do his photos show?
3. Where can you eat fresh vegetables and watch baseball?
4. Who takes once a week classes in gardening?
5. How many people live in the world's cities?

C Match the words from the article to the definitions.

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| 1. urban _____ | a. a large area of land for growing food |
| 2. farm _____ | b. to put something in the ground to grow |
| 3. garden _____ | c. an area of land with flowers, fruit, and vegetables |
| 4. to grow _____ | d. good for your body |
| 5. to plant _____ | e. good for mental health |
| 6. volunteers _____ | f. in the city |
| 7. therapeutic <u>e</u> | g. to increase in size |
| 8. healthy _____ | h. people who work for free |