

READING COMPREHENSION

Read the texts on pages 74 and 75 and solve the activities below.

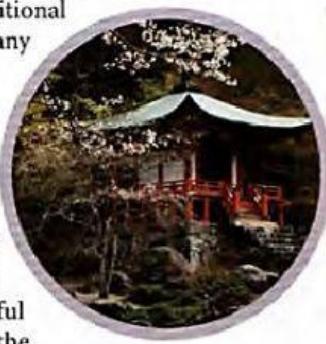
HIGH-SPEED TOKYO

Tokyo has a population of 35 million people. It is the largest city in the world. It is also one of the most exciting. Everything moves fast here. It has one of the biggest and busiest railway systems in the world. Every day, 11 million commuters use it to get to and from work. People earn the highest salaries, and they spend the most money. They wear the latest fashions, and have the most up-to-date phones. It is the world's most expensive city.



Old and new

Tokyo was originally a small fishing village called Edo. The name changed in 1868 when the Emperor moved there. The architecture is very modern. There are not many old buildings because of the 1923 earthquake and the Second World War. But traditional Japan is always near, with many Shinto shrines and public baths around the city.



Visiting Tokyo

Tokyo is on the east coast of Japan. The summers are hot and humid. The most beautiful time of year is spring, when the famous cherry blossom is on the trees. The city is huge, but it is one of the safest cities in the world. Japan is mysterious. It is difficult for foreigners to understand.

MUMBAI A CITY OF EXTREMES

Mumbai is India's largest city with a population of 22.8 million. It is also India's most important commercial centre. Mumbai was part of the British Empire until independence in 1947. It was called Bombay until 1995, when it was renamed Mumbai after a Hindu goddess, Mumba Devi.



Rich and poor

Mumbai is both old and modern, rich and poor. The streets are full of people doing business, selling snacks and clothes, or just living there. Money is everywhere in modern Mumbai. India's most important businesses and banks have their headquarters there. The Bollywood film industry produces more films than Hollywood in Los Angeles. Modern skyscrapers and new shopping malls are right next to slums. Sixty percent of the population live with no running water, no electricity, and no sanitation.

Visiting Mumbai

Mumbai is on the west coast. The wet season is from June to September. Between November and February it is a little cooler and drier. The city is best at sunrise and sunset, when the colour of the stone buildings changes from gold to orange and pink. The cheapest and easiest transport is by bus. Trains can be crowded and dangerous. Because of its poverty, Mumbai can be a difficult place to live, but the experience is unique.

MULTICULTURAL MEXICO CITY

Mexico City has a population of 23.4 million. It is the largest city in both North and South America. The Aztecs called it Tenochtitlan, and it was already an important city when the Spanish invaded in 1521. The country became independent in 1821.



Indian and European

Mexico City offers a variety of experiences. In the Zócalo, the main square, you can see the Spanish cathedral, an Aztec temple, and a modern skyscraper. The city has a lot of museums and theatres. European squares and colonial houses sit next to busy markets selling Mexican food and Indian handicrafts.

It is the richest city in Latin America. There are elegant shops selling high-class goods, expensive restaurants, and supercool bars. There are also many people who live in poor houses.

Visiting Mexico City

Mexico City is in a valley in the south central area of the country. It is surrounded by mountains. The rainy season is from June to October. The warmest months are April and May. It has the largest and cheapest subway system in Latin America. Traffic moves so slowly that it is often faster to walk. The air quality is not good, and visitors need to be careful, but the city offers a rich cultural mix.

Answer with the name of the city

1. Which city has the largest population?
2. Which city has more social contrast?
3. Which city has the worst traffic?
4. Which city is the safest?
5. Which city is the most difficult to understand?
6. Which city has one of the biggest film industries?
7. Which city has the worst living conditions?
8. Which city is the most European?
9. Which city is the richest?
10. Which city has the best public transportation?

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Listening

5 T 9.11 Listen to these people from the three megacities. What do they like about their capital city? What do they say about ...?

- the people
- the climate
- transport
- things to do

Makiko from Tokyo



Vimal from Mumbai



Lourdes from Mexico City



Name	The people	The climate	transport	Things to do
<i>Makiko</i>				
<i>Vimal</i>				
<i>Lourdes</i>				

Now, see the script on the next page and correct yourselves.



T 9.11**Makiko from Tokyo**

The first thing to say about Tokyo is that it is very safe. Women can walk everywhere anytime day or night. Little children walk to school. You can leave something on the table in a restaurant while you go out for a minute and nobody will take it.

Tokyo is also very clean, and it is very easy to travel around. All the trains and buses run on time.

Personally, my favourite time of year is spring, when it's dry and the cherry blossom is out.

Tokyo is a very exciting city, because there are always new things to do, new places to go, new things to eat. It changes very quickly!

Hourdes from Mexico City

There are three things I like about living in Mexico City. First, the weather. It is warm and sunny most of the year. The second is the fresh fruit and vegetables – the markets are wonderful, the colours and smells are great! And the third is that I'm never bored because there is so much to see and do! We have museums, theatres, art exhibitions, parks, restaurants, bars ... everything!

My favourite time of year in Mexico City is the end of December, from the 16th to the 31st. The city is full of lights, there are parties everywhere, and we eat and drink and give presents. Everyone's really happy! I love it!

Vimahl from Mumbai

I have two strong impressions of Mumbai. First, it is a city that is so full of activity! It is busy busy busy all day long and all night long! It's a city that doesn't sleep much. The day begins early because it is so hot. It's a noisy place. There are cars going beep beep, auto rickshaws by the thousand, fast trains rushing past, vendors shouting and trying to get you to buy their food, their drinks, their clothes. And people, people everywhere trying to get to work.

The second thing to say is that the people are very, very enthusiastic. Life isn't easy in Mumbai for a lot of people, but we really work hard and we really want to do our best. Every new day brings new possibilities! The future is exciting for us!