



Urban Renewal Projects

1

Time to Read!

Urban Renewal:
The Process of Change

When a city begins to experience problems such as overcrowding, traffic congestion, and housing shortages, it often looks for ways to improve its infrastructure. In some cases, this involves large-scale reforms known as urban renewal projects.

One of the most famous examples of urban renewal is the rebuilding of Paris in the 19th century by Georges-Eugène Haussmann. At that time, the French capital was a large slum with narrow, winding streets. Haussmann's plan was to open up the city, create a barrier between the city centre and the suburbs, and make it easier for people to move around. To do this, he expropriated the land and knocked down entire neighbourhoods. The result is the Paris we know today.

In the 20th century, many other cities followed Paris's example. In New York, Robert Moses bulldozed entire neighbourhoods to build new roads and tackle congestion. In London, the Greater London Council introduced strict planning restrictions and poured money into public transport.

While these projects have not escaped criticism, they have undoubtedly transformed the cities they were intended to help.

2

Let's Warm Up with Some Lead-in Activities!

Lead-in activities:

- 1 Imagine you are a city planner. Identify three major problems your city faces and brainstorm possible solutions. Share your ideas with the class.

3

Let's Answer the Following Questions!

- 1 What are some common problems that cities experience that may lead to urban renewal projects?



- 2 Who was responsible for the rebuilding of Paris in the 19th century?



- 3 What was Georges-Eugène Haussmann's plan for improving Paris?



4 How did Hausmann carry out his plan?



5 Give an example of another city that followed Paris's example and implemented urban renewal projects.



6 What were some measures taken by the Greater London Council to improve the city?



7 How have urban renewal projects transformed the cities they were intended to help?



4

Can You Fill in the Blanks?

large slum, large-scale reforms, tackle congestion, restrictions, create a barrier

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One of the most famous examples of urban renewal is the rebuilding of Paris in the 19th century by Georges-Eugène Hausmann. At that time, the French capital was a ____ (2) with narrow, winding streets. Hausmann's plan was to open up the city, ____ (3) between the city centre and the suburbs, and make it easier for people to move around. To do this, he expropriated the land and knocked down entire neighbourhoods. The result is the Paris we know today.

In the 20th century, many other cities followed Paris's example. In New York, Robert Moses bulldozed entire neighbourhoods to build new roads and ____ (4). In London, the Greater London Council introduced strict planning ____ (5) and poured money into public transport.

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Get Creative with Your Writing!

Choose one of the topics below. Brainstorm your ideas in the class and write your piece at home.

Writing tasks:

- 1 Write a blog post about the recent large-scale reforms in your city's urban planning and development. Discuss how these changes will impact the city's infrastructure, economy, and residents. Use the target vocabulary to describe the potential benefits and challenges of these reforms.
- 2 Imagine you are a resident living in a large slum in your city. Write a social media post advocating for better living conditions and government support to improve the community. Use the target vocabulary to describe the current situation and the changes you would like to see.
- 3 You are a city planner tasked with creating a barrier to prevent illegal dumping and protect a local park. Write an email to your team outlining your plan, including details on the materials and design you will use. Use the target vocabulary to explain the purpose and importance of this project.

Target Vocabulary:

large-scale reforms, large slum, create a barrier, expropriate the land, tackle congestion, restrictions, pour money, escape criticism



Correct Answers

4 Correct Answers:

- 1 large-scale reforms
- 2 large slum
- 3 create a barrier
- 4 tackle congestion
- 5 restrictions