



NEW CITY PLANNERS

Many of the cities in the United States are a mess. They are crowded with too many houses and too many people. Cities have smog, too much traffic, noise, and run-down buildings. Cities continue to grow and spread, taking up more natural land and countryside.

It is time to make changes. Adults have planned cities for years, and they still produce the same outcome. It's time that kids become the city planners. New ideas and techniques are needed. Kids are an important part of the cities. Their ideas are creative and fresh. They are the future.

Each year, the Future City Competition is held. It is part of National Engineers Week. This gives kids across the United States a chance to design a city that would be easy to live in and beautiful as well. Thousands of schools send teams to participate each year. Each team is composed of three students, a professional engineer, and a teacher. They are able to use software to build a 3-D town.

Of course, it's a lot easier to design a city from scratch without all the existing problems. It's also a lot easier to fix cities on paper than in real life. But using the imagination of kids is the key to the future. Besides, the kids will be the ones living in these cities in years to come.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why does the author of this passage think that kids should be asked to plan cities?
 - a. They are innocent.
 - b. They haven't been asked before.
 - c. They have requested input.
 - d. Their ideas are new and innovative.

2. What is the meaning of the word *existing* as used in the passage?
 - a. previous
 - b. current
 - c. desired
 - d. interfering

3. Who makes up a team for the Future City Competition?
 - a. three engineers, three students
 - b. three teachers, one engineer, one student
 - c. engineers and students
 - d. three students, one teacher, one engineer

4. Which paragraph helps you answer the previous question?
 - a. first paragraph
 - b. fourth paragraph
 - c. third paragraph
 - d. second paragraph