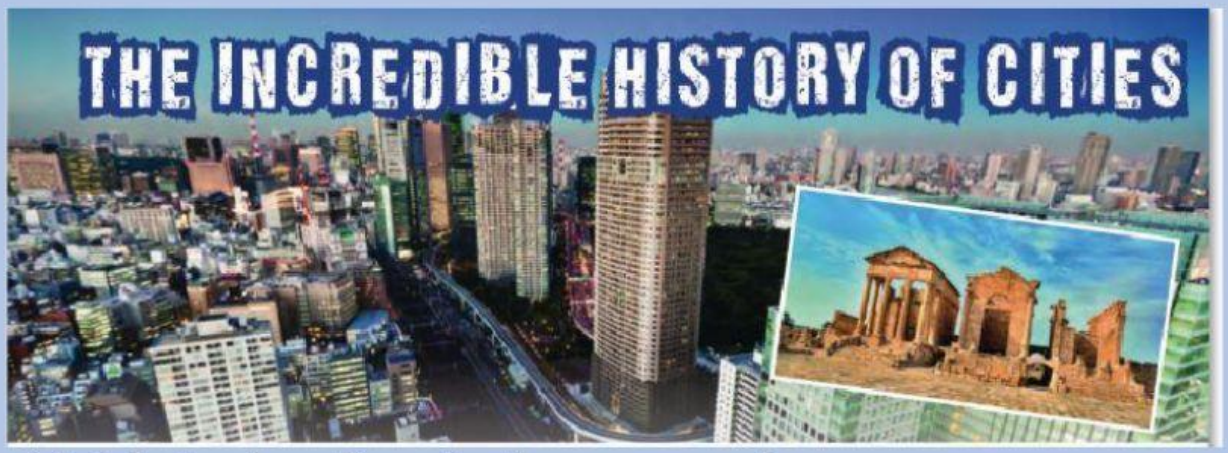


Match the headings to the paragraphs

1 The world is changing very fast. 200 years ago, almost all the people in the world lived in the country. Today, over 50 per cent of people live in cities. In 1950, there weren't very many big cities. Only 83 cities in the world had a population of over one million. Now there are nearly 500!

2 The twenty-first century is the age of the 'megacity'. Megacities have a population of over ten million people. There are now 21 of them from Moscow and Beijing to Cairo, São Paulo and Mexico City. Tokyo's population of 35 million is larger than the population of Canada!

3 The first cities developed when farmers in villages produced more food than they needed. This gave some people free time. They started making things, selling things and building better houses and public buildings. Groups of people lived and worked together, often in safe places such as on a hill. Other cities, such as London and Paris, were built around the narrowest part of a river where it was easy to cross.

4 So cities aren't a modern invention. In fact, Jericho is possibly the oldest city in the world. It was first built 11,000 years ago! The earliest cities developed in what is now Iraq (Babylon and Ur), China, Pakistan, Egypt (Thebes) and Greece. Rome was the first great city in the world. In the third century AD, its population was more than one million!

5 Now let's travel back in time to visit one of the great cities of the past. The year is 1600 and this is Shakespeare's London. It was very different from a modern city. First, you entered it through gates in high city walls. When you were inside, you experienced four things: the narrow roads, the smell, the noise and the number of animals. It was a dangerous place, too, because rats and insects caused diseases. Today's cities are much bigger, faster and safer to live in. However, they still suffer from similar problems such as pollution, noise, traffic and dirt. But perhaps the biggest difference between old and modern cities is light. Modern cities are never dark. At night, you can even see them from space!

A Back to the past | **B** Ancient cities | **C** Megacities | **D** Changing cities | **E** Why cities developed

Read the article again and answer the questions.

1 How many cities have a population of over one million?
2 How many people live in a megacity?
3 Where were the first cities built?
4 In which modern countries were the earliest cities?
5 How was Shakespeare's London different from a modern city?
6 How are old and modern cities similar?