

NAME: _____

 FCE Reading Part 7: Eco Friendly Cities to Visit and What We Can Learn

You are going to read four texts about eco friendly cities. For questions **1–10**, choose from the cities **A–D**.

A Copenhagen, Denmark: Copenhagen has gained international attention for its ambitious environmental goals. While many cities promote cycling, here it is fully integrated into daily life. Carefully planned “cycle superhighways” connect suburban neighbourhoods with the city centre, allowing commuters to travel long distances safely and efficiently. As a result, cycling is often faster than driving. However, Copenhagen’s environmental efforts go beyond transport. The city aims to become carbon neutral within the next decade. Wind turbines located both offshore and near the coast provide a significant percentage of its energy supply. One of the most surprising examples of innovative thinking is a waste to energy power plant that also functions as a recreational area, complete with a ski slope on its roof. This unusual combination demonstrates that environmental responsibility does not have to mean sacrificing enjoyment. For visitors, Copenhagen offers not only beautiful canals and historic architecture, but also a real life example of how urban planning can reduce pollution while improving quality of life.

B Singapore: At first glance, Singapore appears to be a dense, modern metropolis dominated by skyscrapers. Yet the city state has carefully incorporated greenery into its urban identity. Vertical gardens cover high rise buildings, and strict urban planning regulations require developers to include green elements in new projects. As a result, the city feels unexpectedly balanced between technology and nature. One of Singapore’s greatest environmental achievements relates to water management. With very limited natural freshwater resources, the country could not rely on traditional supply systems. Instead, it invested heavily in advanced recycling technology. Water is collected, purified and reused through a highly efficient process that has become a model for other nations facing similar challenges. Interactive visitor centres explain this system in detail, making sustainability both visible and educational. Singapore proves that environmental innovation can emerge from necessity, particularly when resources are scarce and long term planning is prioritised.

C Vancouver, Canada: Vancouver’s environmental reputation is strongly connected to its geographical setting. Surrounded by mountains and the Pacific Ocean, the city has made deliberate efforts to prevent uncontrolled urban expansion. Strict zoning policies protect natural landscapes and ensure that residential and commercial development remains carefully managed. Rather than focusing only on large scale environmental projects, Vancouver has concentrated on improving daily life for its residents. Many neighbourhoods follow a “walkable city” model, where shops, schools and services are located within short distances. Public transport networks and cycling paths support this approach, reducing dependence on private vehicles. In addition, Vancouver has implemented extensive composting and recycling programmes aimed at significantly reducing landfill waste. Although challenges remain, the city demonstrates how environmental awareness can be integrated into both city planning and everyday routines.

D Freiburg, Germany: Freiburg may be smaller than other environmentally progressive cities, but its influence has been considerable. Often described as Germany's "green city", Freiburg has invested in renewable energy for decades. Solar panels are a common sight on rooftops, and entire districts operate according to strict ecological construction standards. The Vauban district, in particular, is frequently studied by urban planners from around the world. Designed with sustainability in mind, it discourages private car ownership by limiting parking spaces and prioritising efficient tram connections. Streets are designed to be pedestrian friendly, encouraging social interaction and safer environments for children. Freiburg's approach highlights the importance of long term commitment. Instead of quick solutions, the city has gradually transformed its infrastructure, proving that consistent environmental policies can reshape how communities live and move.

Which city...

1. ___ combines waste management with an enjoyable activity?
2. ___ introduced environmental solutions because of limited access to a natural resource?
3. ___ controls city growth in order to protect the surrounding environment?
4. ___ has implemented urban design measures that make owning a private vehicle less practical for residents?
5. ___ requires new buildings to include environmentally friendly design elements?
6. ___ has introduced organised systems to deal with household waste more sustainably?
7. ___ focuses on making everyday services accessible within walking distance?
8. ___ has become influential despite not being a large city?
9. ___ uses renewable energy that can be easily seen on buildings?
10. ___ provides visitors with opportunities to learn in detail about how an environmental system works?