

Trees – an essential part of cities

1. Look at a list of videos a friend recommended to you. Complete the gaps with the words in the box to create the video titles.

committed embrace foliage laying
purify retain uncover

- Green cities: the importance of urban trees*
 - Learn to meditate and your sanity in an ever-changing world*
 - Home schooling: the foundations for your child's future*
 - the environmental benefits of a vegan diet*
 - How trees the air*
 - Politicians who stay to saving wildlife*
 - How green influences our mental health*
2. Discuss what you might learn from each of the videos from ex. 1. Then, decide which one(s) you would like to watch and why.
3. You are going to watch a [video](https://youtu.be/zarII9bx6FI) [https://youtu.be/zarII9bx6FI] about the importance of trees in cities. Look at the questions below and discuss possible answers. Then, watch the video and check.
- What did two ancient cities, Uruk and Anuradhapura, have in common?
 - The population of both cities grew until the inhabitants couldn't feed themselves.
 - Both relied heavily on irrigation systems.
 - Their irrigation systems turned out to be a failure.
 - Which of the following statements about trees is NOT correct?
 - They keep cities clean by retaining toxins.
 - They protect from mudslides and floods.
 - They purify the air.

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- c) What happened in Manhattan in the 1870s?
- 1) There were hardly any trees on the island and people started suffering from serious lung diseases.
 - 2) Intense sunlight damaged buildings and caused sanitation standards to drop.
 - 3) High temperatures combined with poor sanitation standards caused dangerous bacteria to breed.
- d) How does green foliage influence our mental health?
- 1) Patients recover more quickly if hospitals are surrounded by trees.
 - 2) It increases the quality of the air we breathe.
 - 3) It helps us concentrate better.
- e) What are Supertrees?
- 1) 50-metre tall vertical gardens
 - 2) 50-metre tall trees
 - 3) green areas in some megacities

4. Match the sentence halves. Then, watch the [video](#) again and decide what the sentences refer to.

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|--------------------------------|---|
| a) It worked in concert | 1) with solar energy and collected rainwater. |
| b) They absorbed | 2) to pollution and natural disasters. |
| c) They contribute | 3) natural biodiversity. |
| d) It increased the resilience | 4) with the surrounding forest. |
| e) It preserves | 5) to the city's poor air quality. |
| f) They sustain themselves | 6) too much solar radiation. |



5. Discuss the questions.

- Which part of the video surprised you the most?
- Which three facts from the video would you use to convince people that more trees should be planted in cities?
- Do you think that there are enough trees in your city or the area where you live? Is planting trees on the list of priorities for your local government?
- Could too many trees in cities be dangerous? In what way?
- Have you ever planted a tree? If so, tell the story, providing some detail.

6. Look at the list of ideas for keeping cities green and choose the correct word in each sentence.

a) Green areas which already exist in cities should be

- 1) executed 2) incorporated 3) preserved 4) purified

b) The local government should tree planting into urban development plans.

- 1) associate 2) contribute 3) incorporate 4) ensure

c) Schools should be committed educating children about the importance of keeping urban areas green.

- 1) to 2) on 3) for 4) towards

d) Cities should sustain themselves renewable energy.

- 1) by 2) of 3) on 4) with

e) Citizens should the importance of using public transport.

- 1) designate 2) recognise 3) ensure 4) sustain

f) The local government should help people the benefits of urban green areas, e.g. by organising community events in parks.

- 1) accumulate 2) enforce 3) sustain 4) uncover

g) The local government should work concert with the national authorities.

- 1) at 2) from 3) in 4) on

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7. Read the sentences in ex. 6 again and put the ideas in order of importance. Justify your ranking.
8. Your city is launching a campaign called “Green Future”, aimed at educating people about the importance of trees in urban areas. Choose the best picture for the campaign poster. Justify your choice and explain why you didn't pick the other pictures.

