

What are 'megacities'  
and 'world cities'?







# Learning routes

Distinguish between megacities and world cities and understand the characteristics of world cities



# How do we classify cities? Match the type of city to the correct definition

- World city
  - Millionaire city
  - Megacity
- Metropolitan area with a total population in excess of 10 million. The density is normally over 2000 people per km<sup>2</sup>. It can be made up of two or more metropolitan areas that converge upon one another. There were 35 in 2015.
  - A city that acts as a major centre for finance, trade, business, politics, culture, science, publishing and all associated activities - serving not just one country. Difficult to determine, but there are about 35 worldwide.
  - A city with over 1 million inhabitants



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# Core: What are the characteristics of world cities?





# Characteristics - world cities have most or all of these...

- Participates in International affairs e.g. UN
- Has a large population
- Mass transport systems
- Several international cities within its boundaries e.g. Chinatown, Little Italy
- Home to large financial institutions e.g. Stock exchanges that influence the world economy
- World renowned cultural and academic institutions e.g. LSE, Tate Modern
- Lively cultural scene
- Media outlets that reach the rest of the world
- Headquarters of multinational companies
- Centres for innovation in business
- (Major centres for manufacturing)



# Extension...

- Research an example of a world city e.g.  
London / New York / Shanghai
- Find specific examples for each of the characteristics already mentioned



# Consolidate



- 'World cities are more important than megacities.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? 8 marks