

URBANISATION

Urbanisation happens when people leave the countryside and move to towns and cities, causing cities to grow bigger and have more people.

Why cities are growing

People live where they do because they can make a living in that place.

In Grade 6 we examined the reasons that cause people to live in certain places:

- Fertile land,
- mineral resources
- water availability
- political reasons
- job opportunities.

When it becomes difficult for people to make a living they often move to another place.


Rural urban migration is movement of people from rural areas to urban areas

Cities are growing mainly because of urbanisation.

This means more people are moving from rural areas to towns and cities.



Push and Pull Factors



Push Factors

- Push factors are things/reasons that cause people to get away from things they do not like.
- Negative factors

Pull Factors

- Pull factors are things/reasons that attract people and cause them to move for things they want such as jobs and houses.
- Positive factors

Push Factors that make people to move away from rural areas

- Lack of jobs in rural areas
- Poverty
- Poor services
- Drought and poor farming conditions
- Limited schools and healthcare

Pull Factors that attract people to move to urban areas

- More Job Opportunities
- Better Services
- Better Living Conditions
- Improved Transport and Communication
- Good education
- Better safety and security

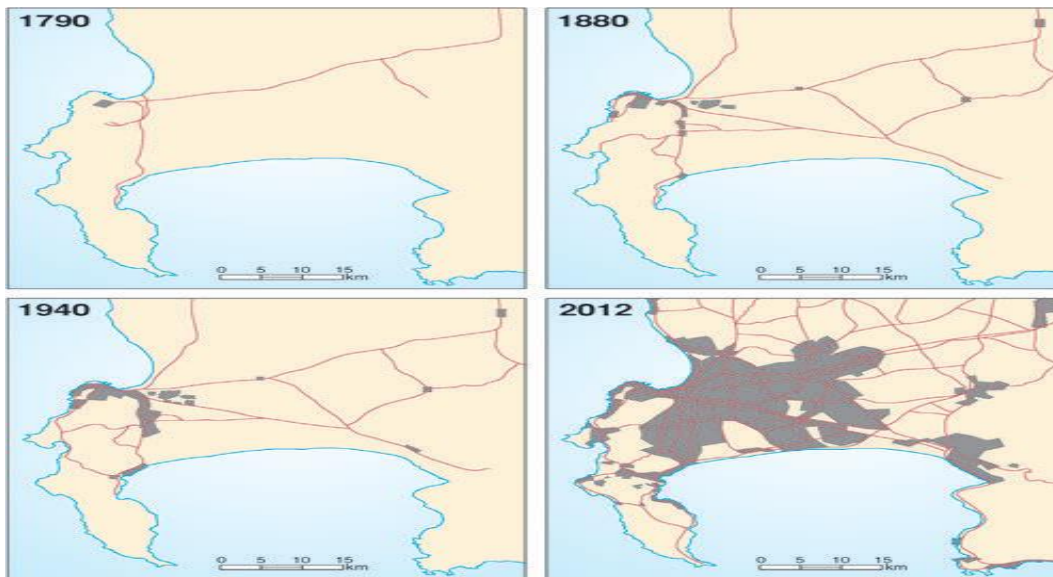
Overview of urbanisation in South Africa

Urbanisation in South Africa did not happen all at once.

It developed over time influenced by:

- Settlement
- Mining
- Transport
- Industrialisation
- Government policies

Influence by the settlers



Who were the settlers?

Settlers were people from Europe, mainly the Dutch (from 1652) and later the British, who came to South Africa and settled permanently

In 1652 the Dutch East India Company decided to build a permanent settlement in the Cape in order to supply passing ships with fresh food and water on their voyages to and from the East.

Cape Town slowly developed into an urban settlement based on its importance as a harbour.

- Settlers established the first towns and cities.
- Cape Town began as a refreshment station by the Dutch.

The influence of the discovery of diamonds and gold



Discovery of diamonds (Kimberley) and gold (Johannesburg).
Settlers developed mining towns.
Thousands of people moved to these areas looking for work
Mining was a major cause of rapid urbanisation.

Industrialisation and Transport Growth (Early 1900s)

Factories and industries developed near cities.

Roads, railways, and harbours were built.

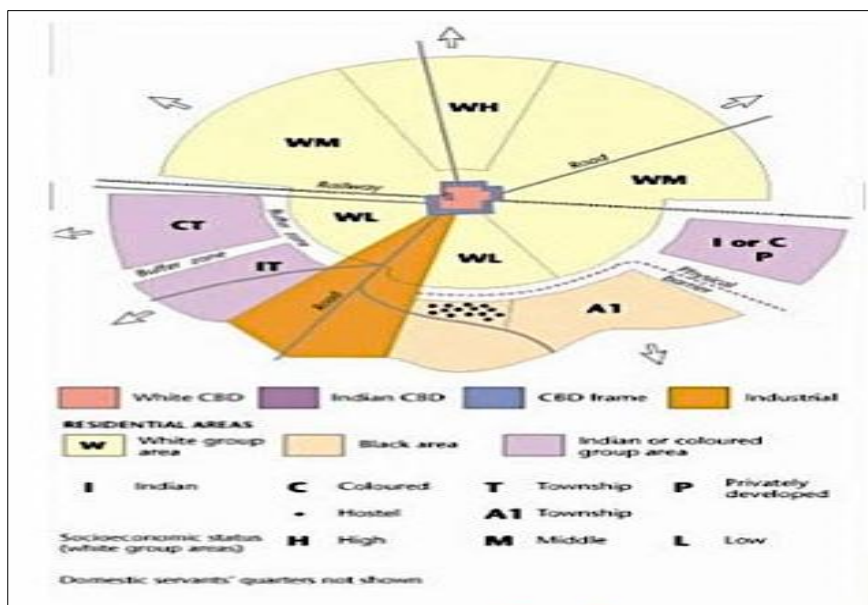
Cities such as Johannesburg, Durban, and Pretoria expanded.

Urban areas became centres of jobs, trade, and services.

The influence of apartheid population controls

- Strict laws controlled where people could live and move.
- Black South Africans were restricted to homelands and townships.
- Urbanisation continued, but informally and illegally.
- Many people lived near cities in townships and informal settlements.
- Urban growth happened, but cities were racially divided.
- The shape and look of South African cities was greatly influenced by apartheid laws.
- When the apartheid government created urban residential zones, they often looked for barriers that could divide the zones, such as a railway line, an industrial area or a piece of open land.

SOUTH AFRICAN CITY



The influence of democracy in 1994



Movement laws were removed.
People could freely move to cities.
Urbanisation increased rapidly.
Cities became more mixed, but challenges remained.
Most South Africans now live in urban areas.
(Many people moved to cities for jobs, housing, and services.)
Growth of informal settlements due to housing shortages.

Social issues related to the rapid growth of cities

Rapid urbanisation leads to increases in the numbers of people who need land, housing, water, electricity, health care and schooling

Housing Shortages



Cities cannot build houses fast enough for the growing population.
Many people live in informal settlements (squatter camps).
Houses are often overcrowded and poorly built.
Example: Growth of informal settlements around major cities like Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Growth of Informal Settlements



Many people build shacks close to cities.

Due to shortage of housing

These areas often lack:

- Clean water
- Proper sanitation
- Electricity
- Conditions can be unhealthy and unsafe.

Overcrowding



Too many people live in small spaces.

Several families may live in one house.

Leads to poor living conditions and conflict

Unemployment and Poverty



Not enough jobs for everyone moving to cities.
Many people remain unemployed or earn very low wages.
This increases poverty in urban areas.

Crime



High unemployment and poverty contribute to:

- Theft
- Robbery
- Gang activity

Crime rates are often higher in overcrowded, poor areas.

Pressure on Services



Rapid population growth puts strain on:

- Schools
- Hospitals and clinics
- Transport
- Water and electricity supply
- Services become overstretched and unreliable.

Traffic Congestion

More people lead to more vehicles.

Roads become crowded.

Public transport is overused and often unreliable.

Environmental Problems



Pollution increases due to:

- Waste dumping
- Air and water pollution
- Lack of proper waste removal in informal areas.