How Cities Work

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Questions

1. Tell me about where you live now. Place a checkmark that describes the place where you lived based on the definition of these places according to the book:
   ___ Small Village
   ___ Small Town
   ___ Large Town
   ___ City, Center (near Business Center &/or Greenbelt)
   ___ City, Suburb

   • What kind of places can be found in your neighborhood, city, or town?
   • If you had a choice, which of these areas would you choose to live in and why?

2. For a city to grow there will always be constant construction and building going on. There will be a number of demolitions and preservation that may be considered.
   • Do you know what the word **demolition** means? What about the term **preservation**? Why are these two words important to consider together when building a city?
   • What happens when an area is totally demolished? What is lost in a demolition?
   • In Los Angeles, buildings that are 50 or more years old can be considered historic. Why is preservation important in the Los Angeles communities especially in the Downtown Los Angeles where we see much construction going on?
   • What is a Big Bertha? Why is Big Bertha important? In Los Angeles, where is Big Bertha used?

3. Who is Frederick Law Olmstead? What important contribution did he provide for the people of New York and also for the visitors of New York until today? Name a green space you may find where you live. How is it different or similar to parks in other cities?
4. What happens at City Hall? Do you have a City Hall where you live?
   • What is the title of the person that is in charge of a city?
   • Where is this person’s office located?
   • Name some of the departments that you can find inside the City Hall that help make important decisions about the running of a city.
   • What different emergency services are provided by the city?
   • What different fun places can one enjoy in a city?

5. Close your eyes and imagine that you are asked to build a city of the future.
   • What will your future city look like?
   • Will your future city be in an existing city now and just be adapting to meet the needs of your community? Or will it be totally change and different? Why?
   • What is most important for you to have in your future city and why?