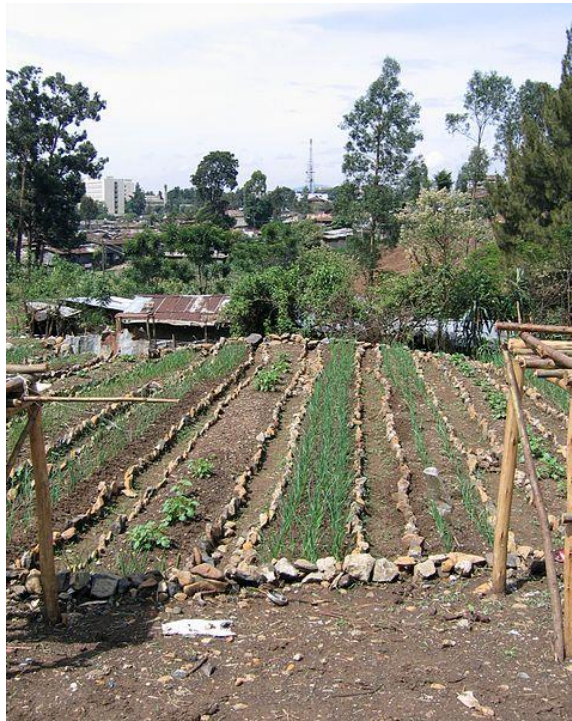


Urban Farms

Susannah Edelbaum



Many people wrongly think that cities don't have farms and that fruits and vegetables are only grown in the country. Believe it or not, there are more and more urban farms popping up in cities all over the world.

Alexandra Sullivan, a food systems researcher in New York City, studies urban agriculture. Urban agriculture is another name for farming and gardening in a city environment. Ms. Sullivan studies everything from tiny gardens in empty lots between buildings to bigger fields that have been planted and cultivated. According to Ms. Sullivan, "Urban agriculture has existed since cities have, across the world."

The number of humans living in urban areas, or cities, is increasing. The amount of people who want to garden in urban areas is also rising. Ms. Sullivan says, "In small gardens, on rooftops and indoors, city residents grow fruits, vegetables, grains, and herbs, and raise animals to produce dairy, eggs, honey, and meat. City residents use these foods as supplements [additions] to food produced by rural agriculture." Even though some people who live in urban areas grow crops, urban residents still need to rely on food grown in rural areas. This is because a city doesn't have enough space to grow enough food for everyone living in it.

In New York City, urban farmers have come up with many different ways to grow their own produce, even though there isn't a lot of room. For example, Brooklyn Grange is a farming operation that has two rooftop vegetable farms in New York City. All together, the farms are made up of 2.5 acres of rooftop space. This makes Brooklyn Grange one of the largest rooftop farming operations in the world.

Brooklyn Grange grows tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, kale, chard, herbs, carrots, radishes, and beans. The farming company sells its vegetables to local residents and restaurants. And because the farms are on rooftops, they are specially adapted to their urban location. They use available space that is not needed for anything else. As more urban farmers find ways to grow food in cities, urban residents will be better able to get fresher ingredients for their meals.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is urban agriculture?

- A farming and gardening in the country
- B a term for cities that have farms
- C farming and gardening in a city environment
- D a method of growing food indoors

2. What does the passage describe?

- A how to grow potatoes and beans on a roof
- B agriculture in urban environments
- C the history of urban agriculture
- D technology used in urban agriculture

3. Urban agriculture cannot serve as the only food source for a large city. What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A "This is because a city doesn't have enough space to grow enough food for everyone living in it."
- B "In New York City, urban farmers have come up with many different ways to grow their own produce, even though there isn't a lot of room."
- C "In small gardens, on rooftops and indoors, city residents grow fruits, vegetables, grains and herbs, and raise animals to produce dairy, eggs, honey and meat."
- D "Brooklyn Grange grows tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, kale, chard, herbs, carrots, radishes, and beans."

4. Based on the text, what is a common challenge urban farmers face?

- A Growing produce during water shortages.
- B Keeping urban farms safe from city residents.
- C Fighting against cities' laws that ban urban agriculture.
- D Finding the right space to grow their produce.

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A farming in city environments
- B the advantages of urban agriculture
- C how people can begin their own urban farm
- D the rooftop gardens of Brooklyn Grange

6. Read the following sentence: "In New York City, urban farmers have come up with many different ways to grow their own **produce**, even though there isn't a lot of room."

What does "**produce**" most nearly mean as used in this sentence?

- A foods grown in the country
- B foods made with sugar
- C fruits and vegetables
- D desserts and drinks

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The number of people living in urban environments is increasing. _____, the number of people in cities who want to start urban farms and gardens is increasing.

- A As a result
- B In addition
- C Initially
- D However

8. How long has urban agriculture existed?

9. Give an example of a place where urban farmers can grow their own produce.

10. Explain how and why urban farms adapt to their city environment. Support your answer using information from the passage.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 1130

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8. How long has urban agriculture existed?

Suggested answer: Urban agriculture has existed for as long as cities have.

9. Give an example of a place where urban farmers can grow their own produce.

Suggested answer: Answers include:

- rooftop gardens
- indoor gardens
- gardens in empty lots between buildings

10. Explain how and why urban farms adapt to their city environment. Support your answer using information from the passage.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage.

- Example: Urban farms adapt to their city environment by using the spaces that are available and are not being used for anything else. Urban farmers make use of rooftops, empty lots between buildings, and even inside buildings. They have to adapt to the city environment because most cities were not designed with growing produce or farming in mind, so they have to make do and get creative with the limited space and resources available.