Land

How do we use our land?

transportation, mining, building, farming, hunting
parks/preserves, Dying, recreation

What resources do we get from our land?

water, minerals, coal, natural gas, oxygen, food
CO_2
wood

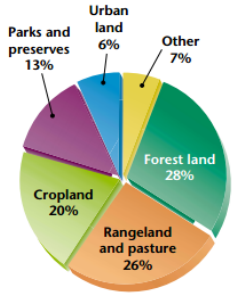
Land that is covered by mostly buildings and roads is called
Urban land

Land that contains relatively few people and lots of open space is called rural land

Primary Land Use

Table 1 ▼

Primary Land-Use Categories	
Land cover type	**Human use of land**
Rangeland	land used to graze livestock and wildlife
Forest land	land used for harvesting wood, wildlife, fish, nuts, and other resources
Cropland	land used to grow plants for food and fiber
Parks and preserves	land used for recreation and scenic enjoyment and for preserving native animal and plant communities and ecosystems
Wetlands, mountains, deserts, and other	land that is difficult to use for human purposes
Urban land	land used for houses, businesses, industry, and roads



Where do we live?

- Until 1850 most people lived in RURAL areas

- The Industrial Revolution caused a lot of people to move to URBAN areas for jobs

Ecosystem services

- All people depend on resources that are produced in rural areas

1) H_2O
2) Trees/plants growing
3) Soil/land for growing crops
4) oxygen

- The resources that are provided by natural or artificial ecosystems are called ecosystem services

Examples of Ecosystem Services
purification of air and water
preservation of soil and renewal of soil fertility
prevention of flood and drought
regulation of climate
maintenance of biodiversity
movement and cycling of nutrients
detoxification and decomposition of wastes
aesthetic beauty

Urban Land Use

Urbanization - the movement of people from rural to urban areas

- by 1960 70% of the US population was urban

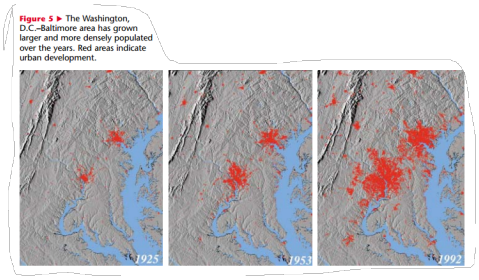


Figure 5 ▶ The Washington, D.C.–Baltimore area has grown larger and more densely populated over the years. Red areas indicate urban development.

Urban crisis

- When an urban area grows slowly, it is a GOOD thing
  a) roads and public transportation can handle growth and things run smoothly
  b) buildings and parking lots are often surrounded by green areas and recreational areas

- When an urban area grows rapidly it is a BAD thing
  - rapid growth leads to damaged infrastructure
  a) Infrastucture - all the things society builds for public use
    - roads, buildings, sewers, canals, fire and police stations, bridges, schools, libraries, hospitals, water mains, power lines

- When more people live in a city than its infrastructure can support, living conditions get bad

Urban Sprawl

the rapid expansion of a city into the nearby countryside

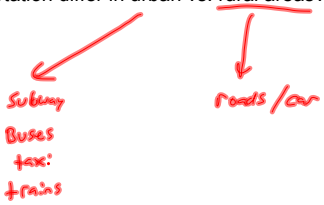
- building of suburbs outside of the city

Land-Use Planning

- determining in advance how land will be used
  - where houses, buildings, factories go
  - what land will be set aside for recreation

Transportation

How does transportation differ in urban vs. rural areas?



Land Management and Conservation

Farmland - land used to grow CROPS and FRUIT
- being threatened by urban development
- National Farmland Protection Act can help

Rangeland - land that supports different vegetation types like grasses or shrubs. Primarily used for grazing livestock

overgrazing - letting animals graze in an area that cannot support them

- Public Rangeland Improvement Act - 1978
- let areas go unused so they can recover and grow again
- kill invasive plants and insects

Deforestation vs. Reforestation

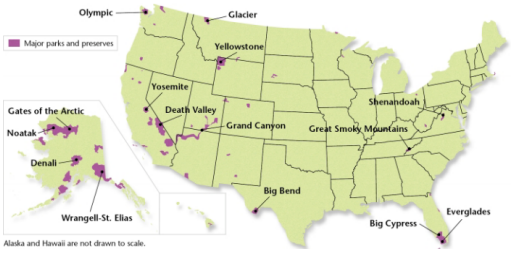
the clearing of trees without replacing them

- clear cut

- selective cut

- the process by which trees are planted to re-establish trees that were cut down in a forest area

Parks and Preserves



- First National Park was created in the 1870's

Yellowstone

- Today there are 50 National Parks

Benefits

- protect species
- only place where unspoiled deserts, forests, or prairies remain
- provide recreation (camp, hike, fish, bird watch, etc)
- serve as outdoor classrooms

Threats

- more visitors = more problems
- litter and traffic jams
- rangelands, mining, logging, oil and gas drilling, factories and power plants are close enough to the parks to effect them