



Build Your Own City

Goals:

- To learn the need for compromise and teamwork
- To learn Jewish values related to urban planning
- To learn to apply responsibilities and values in the “real” world

Duration: 25 minutes

Materials: Build your city worksheets, pencils, optional: art supplies such as modeling clay or natural materials collected from outside.

Program:

1. Divide students into groups of 4-6 students
2. Read the rules for play. The Teva Educators need a new place to live. Your help is required to build us a new city in accordance with Jewish law and environmental sustainability.
 - a. Sit down with your group and examine the Jewish texts provided below. Use them to help your group choose a development strategy for your new city
 - b. Study the city components available for purchase.
 - c. Your group has \$5,000 to purchase city components for your new city. You must purchase at least one item from each category.
 - d. You may need to compromise: There may not be enough money to purchase your ideal item in each category.
 - e. If time permits, create a drawing or model of your new city using markers, modeling clay, outdoor natural materials (sticks, seeds, grass, and feathers with glue or clay), etc.
 - f. We will reconvene to share our city plans (and sculptures/drawings, if applicable).
3. Give the students 15 minutes to accomplish their task
4. Return together, have each group share their city (and drawing if time permits)

Discussion:

1. What compromises were you forced to make?
2. What items did you want no matter what the cost and why?
3. Were you able to balance personal, communal and environmental needs?

Do you like what you see in this curriculum module?

Teva’s educators are available to plan and conduct programs and teacher training.

To find out more, call 212-807-6376 or email teva@tevacenter.org.

This curriculum module was made possible by the funds granted by the Covenant Foundation. The statements made and views expressed, however, are solely the responsibility of the Teva Learning Center.



City Components Available for Your New City

Food source and related industries:

- Standard Farm: \$700 *Huge farm, cheap food, uses pesticides and pollutes the streams.*
- Organic Farm: \$1100 *Medium farm, uses no pesticides, tastes great,*
- Pick Your Own Organic Apples & Strawberries Farm: \$500 *People come and pay to harvest your pesticide free crops. Beware, if this is your only food source, you'll only eat apples and strawberries (and only in the summer and fall)*
- Herd of Dairy Cows: \$500 *They wander around town, eat your grass and you can milk them*

Garbage disposal:

- Dump: \$300 *Throw your trash in a big fat pile and MAYBE it will decompose*
- Incinerator: \$700 *Burn your trash, nothing left but causes air pollution*
- Recycling Center: \$1100 *Melt down your garbage to use it again*

Transportation:

- Bike Trails: \$400 *No harmful pollution, great exercise***
- Bus System: \$800 *Less energy use and pollution per person*
- Highway: \$800 *Allows people to live really far from where they work, lots of pollution*
- General Roads: \$600 *Paved suburban roads, everyone drives everywhere*
- Subway: \$1200 *Runs on electricity, therefore no pollution except at your power plant*

Power supply:

- Coal Power Plant: \$600 *Use cheap fuel to power your city creating air pollution*
- Hydroelectric Power: \$900 *Dam a river to provide power, renewable and non-polluting, but tough on the river*
- Nuclear Power Plant: \$700 *Clean, but is a little dangerous and produces toxic wastes that last for a very long time*
- Solar Paneling on Houses: \$1300 *Clean and safe, a long term investment that will eventually pay for itself*
- Windmills: \$1100 *Harness the wind to provide power for your city*

Entertainment:

- Golf Course: \$800 *Good for economy, but uses lots of pesticides, water and space*
- Cineplex, 18 screens and an Imax: \$700 *Fun for the whole family, takes up space*
- Museum of Natural History: \$600 *Teaches people about how the world works*
- Teva Educators Hall of Fame: \$500 *Self evident*
- Urban Concrete Park: \$500 *Skate boarding, roller blading, and playground*
- Urban Green Park: \$800 *Green space in the middle of your city, lots of nice trails*
- Vast State Forest: \$1000 *Hiking trails, camping, boating, backcountry skiing*
- Synagogue: \$600 *A central location for your Jewish community*
- Create your own: \$1000 *It's your town, what will it be?_____*

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Build Your Own City – Rules for Play

The Teva Educators need a new place to live. Your help is required to build us a new city in accordance with Jewish law and environmental sustainability,

1. Sit down with your group and examine the Jewish texts provided below. Use them and your groups knowledge to choose a development strategy for your new city
2. Study the city components available for purchase.
3. Your group has \$5,000 to purchase city components for your new city. You must purchase at least one item from each category.
4. Compromises will be required as it may be impossible to purchase your ideal item in each category.
5. If time permits, create a drawing or model of your new city.
6. We will reconvene to share our city plans and designs.

Jewish Texts

1. "It is forbidden to live in a city that does not have a garden or a greenery."
- Jerusalem Talmud, Kiddushin 4:12
2. "Carcasses, cemeteries and tanneries must be kept at fifty cubits' distance from a town. A tannery can only be set up on the east side of town [because the east wind is gentle and will not carry the fumes to town]."
- Mishna Baba Batra 2:9
3. **A Torah scholar should not live in a city without these items:**
-Sewage disposal - public bath - elementary school
-Synagogue - tzedekah fund (to sustain the needy)

Rabbi Akiva is quoted as adding several kinds of fruit to this list...
- Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 17b

Our Money – Use this to keep track of how much money you have left

Item	Cost	\$ Remaining	Item	Cost	\$ Remaining
Start here	\$0	\$5000			

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