Introduction to Urban Geography
Urbanization

• The large scale migration of people from rural to urban areas

Push Factors
• Rural Areas have less opportunities
  • Education
  • Jobs
  • Entertainment
  • Services
• Natural Disasters
• Decline of Family Farming
• Poor Infrastructure
• Security

Pull Factors
• More Opportunities
• Higher density of services
• Entertainment destinations
• Perceived potential economic benefit
• Infrastructure
• Social Services
Problems of Urbanization

• Overpopulation
• Unemployment
  – Leading to higher rates of crime
• Squatter Settlements
• Traffic
• Pollution
  – Noise, Light, Air, Water
• Stress
Parts of the City

• **Central Business District (CBD)** – The main center of business and commerce in the city
• **Suburbs** – The areas surrounding the city. Typically reserved for the middle class
• **Edge Cities** – Suburbs that become large cities themselves
• **High-Tech Corridors** – Industrial and technological centers that grow in regions of the city
Parts of the City

- **Squatter Settlements/Slums** – Very low wealth communities that grow unplanned

- **Ethnic Neighborhoods/Ghettos** – Parts of the city inhabited by people of a certain ethnic group
Some cities have greater importance than others and can be grouped together through special characteristics:

- Primate City
- Gateway City
- Megacity
- Megalopolis
- World City
Gateway City

• A city that controls a, or acts as a control center for a much larger area.
  – Ex. St Louis as the Gateway to the West
Primate City

- A city that is more than 2 times the size of all the other cities in the country or region
  - Ex. Bangkok, Thailand
Megacity

• Any city that is over 10 million people
  – Ex. Sao Paulo, Brazil
Megalopolis

- Two or more urban centers that mold together to form one continuous urban area
  - Ex. BosNyWash Corridor
World City

- A city with international prestige and importance as an economic or cultural centers
  – Ex. London, England