6 EXTENSION

Name: ....

1 **The words below appear in the text in Exercise 2. Find the words and guess their meanings. Use a dictionary to check your guesses.**

1. surface ……………………
2. heating ……………………
4. developing countries ……………………
5. earn a living ……………………

2 **Read the text and answer the questions.**

Is Bigger Really Better?

A hundred years ago, two out of every ten people on Earth lived in cities. Today, that figure is five out of ten. "That figure will reach seven by the year 2050," claimed one researcher

Cities cover two per cent of the Earth's surface, but they use 75 per cent of its natural resources. Experts believed that we could solve the problems caused by living in cities by making even bigger cities, or megacities. A megacity is a city with more than ten million inhabitants. There are about 30 megacities in the world today, but by 2030, there will be more than 40, according to a report on the UN website.

Initially, it seemed logical that it would be more efficient and save energy if large numbers of people lived in one area. Heating one building with 100 flats uses less energy than heating 100 separate houses. An underground system can transport millions of people every day and uses less fuel than cars. These megacities seemed like a great idea, however in many cases, they are actually endangering the environment.

Many megacities are in developing countries. These cities cannot deal with the environmental problems of millions of people living in the same place. For instance, it is estimated that seven per cent of the world's population lives in megacities, yet they produce 13 per cent of the world's rubbish. Major parts of some megacities have in fact become "megaslums".

Dhaka, in Bangladesh, is an example. Reporter Solana Pyne said, "Some 400,000 people move to the city every year. It is the fastest growing city in the world, and also one of the poorest."

Traffic jams in Dhaka are a huge problem and there are sometimes protests when the city has to stop supplying water. Moreover, the city is struggling to supply its inhabitants with electricity.

On the other hand, there are some positive examples of megacities. Sao Paolo, in Brazil, is the world's second-largest city. It is now using its rubbish to produce energy. It has also got a special programme where poor people collect metal tins and cans for recycling. The people earn a living and it also contributes to a cleaner environment. Nevertheless, it will take some time before all megacities start to pull their weight when it comes to saving the environment.

1. What trend is discussed in the first paragraph?

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2. Why did people decide to build megacities?

   ....

3. Give one example of how megacities could be more efficient.

   ....

4. What did people in Dhaka complain about?

   ....

5. Why does the writer mention Sao Paolo?

   ....

3 Complete the sentences. Use reported speech.

1. One researcher claimed that by the year 2050, ...

   ....

2. The UN website explained that ....

   .... ,

   but they predicted that ....

   ....

3. Solana Pyne said that about 400,000 people ....

   ....

4 Imagine you are a reporter interviewing a local conservationist. Write your questions to him / her and his / her answers. Then write a report of what he / she told you.