

LESSON 1 'Escape to the countryside': investigating a rural sense of place		
Teaching activities	Learning outcomes	Resources
<p>Starter</p> <p>'City vs. Country'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A brief look at urban push factors and rural pull factors in a UK context. Investigating the extent to which counterurbanisation is a local rather than global phenomenon. <p>Main activity</p> <p>(1) <i>Why live in the countryside?</i></p> <p>Where does the idea of a rural utopia derive from? Rural life is portrayed in a range of different media and walks of life in ways that make many people long to move to the countryside: these are reviewed, including TV programmes. Evidence from the Mappiness project corroborates the idea of a rural utopia by suggesting that rural living does make people a little bit happier on average.</p> <p>(2) <i>What kinds of people move to which kinds of countryside?</i></p> <p>Counterurbanisation is a complex phenomenon composed of the movements of many different types of people, from artists to entrepreneurs.</p> <p>(3) <i>Migration brings rural changes</i></p> <p>Not all areas of the countryside have been affected equally. Sometimes areas have benefited from in-migration; sometimes they have not.</p> <p>Plenary</p> <p><i>Don't over-generalise!</i></p> <p>This forms the basis for a homework exercise, wherein students think critically about the degrees of change that different rural areas have experienced at a local scale.</p>	<p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> think critically about what is meant by a 'sense of place' in relation to rural areas, and how this sense of place has been produced within British culture; investigate the great diversity that exists amongst rural-urban migrants in terms of their population characteristics analyse the quantitative data produced by the Mappiness survey; and identify possible limits of its ability to provide a causal explanation for spatial variations in happiness carefully apply the concepts of scale and diversity to the study of changes in rural areas 	<p><i>This lesson is fully supported with the following resources:</i></p> <p>(1) A magazine-style case study article covering the main themes covered by this lesson (Word / pdf) (2) Lecture given by Dr George MacKerron, Lecturer in the Economics of Environment, Energy and Climate Change at the University of Sussex, presenting evidence from the Mappiness sampling study. http://www.21stcenturychallenges.org/focus/dr-george-mackerron1/</p> <p><i>External links</i></p> <p>Liveable cities infographic: http://www.21stcenturychallenges.org/60-seconds/infographic-liveable-cities/ http://resourcesfutures.org/#!/introduction</p> <p>Mappiness site: http://www.mappiness.org.uk/</p>