

What is gentrification?



Adapted from:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b07x2xli>

- <https://cdn.kqed.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/26/2017/03/Gentrification-lesson-plan1.pdf>

Lead-in: How do you think the following ideas connect with the topic of gentrification?

chain stores working-class neighbourhoods fair rent rundown areas
property prices local residents neighbourhood authenticity

Context: Read the following text and discuss the main ideas with your partner

What is gentrification and how does it affect communities?

Gentrification is a term used to describe the economic and cultural transition that often occurs when wealthier residents start to move into predominantly lower-income, urban neighborhoods. The shift typically pumps economic investment into the neighborhood, increasing its desirability and prompting rapid increases in rents and property values.

While this boost in resources can result in improved safety and services, among a host of other positive changes, it also invariably alters the character and culture of an established community. In many instances, long-term residents in the neighborhood are priced out and forced to move to more affordable communities farther afield.

Gentrification is also commonly the cause of racial tensions in many neighborhoods, as the arrival of wealthier, mostly white newcomers can indirectly result in the eventual displacement of lower-income communities of color who have lived there for generations.

Pros and cons of gentrification: Watch the video and write down pros and cons of gentrification

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nyDbHi1YQE>

Listening

You are going to hear a fragment of a BBC radio report on gentrification. As you listen, complete the following statements with information you hear.

1. It can be said of Archway that gentrification there is in...	
2. The type of people attracted initially by gentrified areas are described as ...	
3. As gentrification speeds up, new affluent gentrifiers push out	
4. The transformation that these newcomers bring along is ...	
5. The rise in the property market will possibly give way to streets that are ...	
6. The classic definition of gentrification is connected with ...	
7. Gentrification may indeed better some aspects of city life, such as ...	
8. 42nd street in New York City used to be ...	
9. When gentrification occurs, public spaces will become ...	
10. Having the opportunity of living with different people is vital for ...	
11. As a consequence, low-income city dwellers might be	
12. In a city like Paris, the city centre is for the rich while on the outskirts you have ...	

Discussion:

- What role does race and class play in gentrification?
- What is one thing you would change, if anything, about gentrification to make it a more positive force in the communities?

Further information:

- *New approaches to gentrification:* <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-37609595>

- Loretta Lees: *Gentrification and what can be done to stop it.*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMz1x5_yF2Q

KEY

1. It can be said of Archway that gentrification there is in ...	full swing
2. The type of people attracted initially by gentrified areas are ...	Young, energetic and creative
3. As gentrification speeds up, new affluent gentrifiers push out ...	Those edgier incomers
4. The transformation that these newcomers bring along is ...	Not necessarily for the better
5. The rise in the property market will possibly give way to streets that are ...	wealthy, bland
6. The classic definition of gentrification is connected with ...	Independent coffee shops
7. Gentrification may indeed better some aspects of city life, such as ...	The streetscape, the quality of shops
8. 42nd street in New York City used to be ...	An exciting gritty place
9. When gentrification occurs, public spaces will become ...	more homogenized
10. Having the opportunity of living with different people is vital for ...	democracy
11. As a consequence, low-income city dwellers might be	Displaced out of cities
12. In a city like Paris, the centre is for the rich and on the outskirts you have	All the social problems