

3 WINTER WONDERLAND





01

INTRODUCTION

In Activity Sheet #3, you will learn about what cities are doing to address the winter blues. You will also get a chance to come up with recommendations to make your city more winter-friendly.

This section will help you learn about what a winter city is and what challenges it faces during the winter months.

What is a winter city?

A winter city is typically defined as an urban centre that experiences long periods of temperature below 0 degree celsius throughout the year. During the winter months, these cities experience large amounts of snowfall and limited access to sunshine and daylight.

What are winter city principles?

The climate and weather of winter cities result in harsh conditions where dwellers need to adjust their behaviours and lifestyles to cope with. For example, people in winter cities tend to spend more time indoors and become less active during the cold and dark seasons. Consequently, winter city principles refer to a series of guidelines or recommendations that aims to improve resident's quality of life during the winter season by addressing issues such as cold temperatures, snow, ice, limited daylight, and other winter-related challenges. Some examples of winter city principles include snow management, winter lighting, active transportation, and winter cultural events.

By the end of this activity, you should be able to come up with your definition of a winter city and recommendations that will make your city more winter-friendly.



02

DISCUSSION

Discuss within your team to reflect upon how it's like to live in a winter city. Go through the guiding questions and come up with your own definition of winter city.

20 minutes

Guiding questions

- What do you like about winter? What do you not like about winter?
- What is it like to live in a winter city?
- What are some things you can only do in winter?
- What are some challenges you have experienced during winter?
 - What do you find unique about your career field?
 - Do you think any of these challenges may affect certain populations more severely than others?
 - Do you think any of these challenges may affect certain locations in your city more severely than others?
 - Which of these challenges can be solved in the short-term (within a year)? Which of these challenges can be solved in the long-term (over multiple years)?
- Do you recall any responses from the local government regarding undesirable winter conditions such as snow removal or signage? Which of these responses do you consider useful?
- What is the ideal winter city you envision?



03

RESEARCH

Using the links below as a starting point, identify challenges during the winter months and what cities are doing to address winter hardships.

40 mins

Reference Documents

- [City of Edmonton Winter Design Guidelines](#)
- [Beaumont Winter City Strategy](#)
- [Wintermission: Winter Placemaking Project in St. Paul](#)
- [Saskatoon's Winter Strategy](#)
- [IBI Group - Innovations for Winter Cities](#)
- [Design Guide for Winter Placemaking](#)
- [Cycling Through Winter](#)

Guiding Questions

- Jot down some key winter city challenges you identified.
- For each of the challenges, identify some solutions you found in your research.
- What are some opportunities in winter (eg. winter sports, winter scenery)?
- Create strategies to highlight and celebrate these opportunities.



04 WINTER CITY EXPLAINER

Create a winter city explainer.

60 mins

Combine your personal observations with your research on winter city principles to develop your own recommendations to make cities more winter-friendly.

How to Prepare a Winter City Explainer

Use tools like PowerPoint or Canva to prepare a slideshow that incorporates both graphics and text.

- **Slide 1:** Describe your personal experience in a winter city. Think about what you heard in your discussions.
- **Slide 2:** Building on your findings from previous research, identify 4 main challenges your city faces during winter.
- **Slide 3:** Identify 4 opportunities/things to do in your city during the winter.
- **Slides 4 to 6:** Come up with 3 recommendations that will either 1) tackle the challenges you identified in previous steps, or 2) celebrate the opportunities in your city during winter months.



05 SUBMISSION

Submit your winter city explainer by February 28 for a chance to win some awesome prizes!

Share Your Winter City Explainer

- Post on your chapter's Instagram account
 - » Share your slideshow as a series of photos or share a short video summarizing your winter city explainer, including observations and major takeaways.
 - » Be sure to tag [@urbanmindsTO](#) and [@1uptoronto](#) in your post to be eligible to win awesome prizes!

Winner Selection

Urban Minds' Program Coordinators will review all submissions and select a winning chapter based on the following criteria:

- Clarity of information
- Creativity of presentation

Bonus Prize: Want to Win a Free Pizza Lunch?

The school chapter with the most members in attendance at 1UP Toronto Conference wins a free pizza lunch! Try to get all your chapter members to register before March Break, so you can all enjoy delicious food together.