

**B2**

30 min

# Transforming Urban Spaces

**twee**

Tweak your lessons with the power of AI

**Skills:**

Can develop a clear argument, expanding and supporting his/her points of view at some length with subsidiary points and relevant examples



## 1 Describe these pictures and how they make you feel.

Do you think adding nature to the urban landscape would make a significant difference in people's physical and mental state?

## 2 Read the article and answer the questions

Catherine Borowski has always had an active imagination. As a child, she dreamed that the car park on her north London council estate would be transformed into a garden. The reality was quite different. “No one had a car, so it was empty, grey and depressing,” she says. Now a sculptor and event producer, Borowski has made it her mission to fill unloved **urban spaces** with flowers – albeit virtual ones. She and her partner Lee Baker are the founders of Graphic Rewilding, a project to install huge **nature-inspired artworks** into the urban landscape.

“Where real **rewilding** isn't possible, our goal is **to inject the colour** and diversity of nature into **rundown spaces**, urging people to notice – and find joy in – the world around them,” says Baker. The pair believe that flowers possess serious powers, even when they're not real. “We know that spending time in nature is good for us, but studies show that even pictures of plants have a positive effect on the mind,” says Baker. He cites research published in The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine, which found that imagery of plants in hospital waiting rooms can help reduce feelings of stress in patients.

**Questions:**

1. How did Catherine Borowski's childhood imagination inspire her work as a sculptor and event producer?
2. What is the goal of Graphic Rewilding?
3. Why does Baker believe that even pictures of plants have a positive effect on the mind?
4. In your opinion, what are some potential challenges or obstacles to implementing graphic rewilding projects in cities?
5. Do you think graphic rewilding can also have economic benefits for a city? If so, how?

## 3 Look at the words in bold in the article. Can you guess their meaning from the context? Discuss them with your teacher. Then fill in the gaps in the following sentences with these words:

1. My art class is currently focusing on creating \_\_\_\_ (1) using only recycled materials.
2. I love exploring the contrast between \_\_\_\_ (2) and rural scenery.
3. I love going on hikes and learning about different \_\_\_\_ (3) efforts to restore natural habitats for animals.
4. The grey walls of my room definitely need some brightening up, so I'm planning to \_\_\_\_ (4) with a new painting.
5. The city has many \_\_\_\_ (5) that could use a bit more love and attention from the residents.

# Correct answers

1

Created in the “Lead-in Activities” tool

**Teacher tip.** Show the students a picture of a rundown urban space and ask them to describe how it makes them feel. Then, show them a picture of a vibrant garden and ask them to describe how it makes them feel. Encourage them to use descriptive language to express their emotions. Afterward, ask them to discuss whether they think adding flowers or nature-inspired artworks to the urban space would make a difference

2

Created in “Open Questions” + “Discussion Questions”

1. Catherine Borowski's childhood dream of transforming an empty car park into a garden inspired her to fill unloved urban spaces with virtual flowers as a sculptor and event producer.

2. The goal of Graphic Rewilding is to inject the color and diversity of nature into rundown spaces, urging people to notice and find joy in the world around them.

3. Baker believes that even pictures of plants have a positive effect on the mind because studies show that spending time in nature or viewing images of plants can reduce stress levels.

4-5. Discussion questions.

3

Created in “Sentences with Target Vocabulary” + “Fill in the Gap”

1. nature-inspired artworks

2. urban landscape

3. rewilding

4. inject some color

5. rundown spaces