



A Tale of Two Arctic Cities: Vorkuta and Salekhard

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Suggested Learning Objectives

- Explain how physical geography and resources impact the growth of cities
- Describe how urban areas are affected by historical economic, political, cultural, and environmental challenges
- Compare and contrast urbanization processes among different locations and/or at different times.

Suggested Unit Pairing

- Unit 6: Cities and Urban Land-Use Patterns and Processes
- Unit 7 Industrial and Economic Development Patterns and Processes

Discussion Questions

- What is a “boom-bust” cycle? How have historical events changed the urban landscape, economies, and populations of Salekhard and Vorkuta?
- Why was massive economic growth in Vorkuta unsustainable? What should they have done? What should Salekhard do to mitigate those challenges?
- How do you think cities should handle large-scale economic expansion? How are the downsides of population growth, influx of capital, and widespread real estate development?
- How do cities and industries depend on and respond to changes in the global economy?
- How did the fall of the Soviet Union affect Salekhard and Vorkuta differently, and why?
- How did the physical environments of these cities impact their growth?
- Is climate change affecting these cities? How?

Further Reading

Urbanization

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