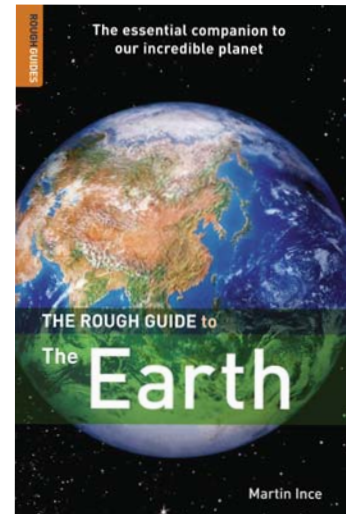
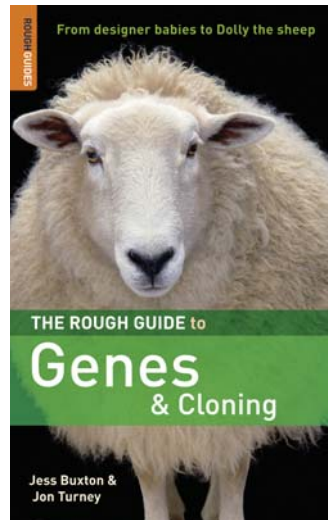
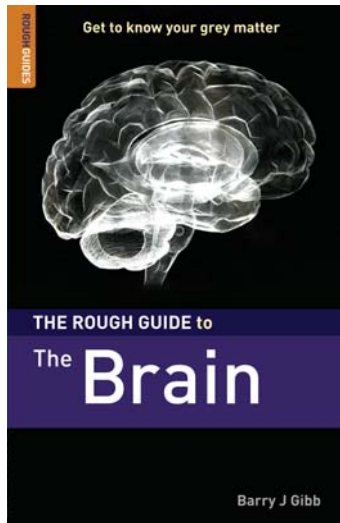




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FLIP THE PAGE TO FIND OUT HOW CITY LIVING CAN HELP SAVE THE EARTH!

from **The Rough Guide to The Earth**, p.246-247

Want to save the planet? Move to the city

Although it is natural to regard cities as the most unnatural and environmentally damaging places on Earth, perhaps there are two sides to this story.

Throughout history, people have voted with their feet by moving to cities. They have often faced extreme exploitations and poor living conditions to get closer to the jobs, education, crowds, and culture that cities offer. In the recent past, urbanization has been gaining strength across the world. In 1950, 30% of the world's population lived in cities, while in 2006 the total reached 50%. That adds up to 3.3 billion people.

Indeed, documents produced for the 2008 International Year of Planet Earth point out that it is not just cities that are growing, but "megacities," of 5 million or more people. There could be sixty of these by 2015, and they would be home to over 600 million people.

Since most people want to live in one, lessening the environmental impact of cities is a top priority for reducing the effect we are having on the Earth. However, in principle, there are good reasons why urbanization might actually be beneficial for the planet. People in big cities ought to **have shorter trips to work, fun or stores**. They can be connected to electricity and fuel supplies by **shorter power lines and pipes**. They can get **economies of scale** in the raw materials they use and in the technology used to recycle or remove their leftovers. And they can use **public transportation**.

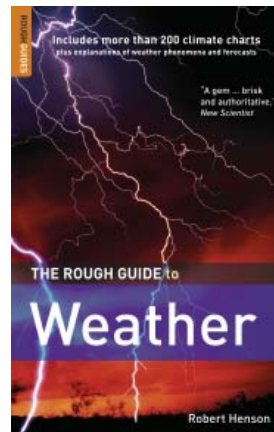
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