

R&B singer Akon to build futuristic city

4th September, 2020



The American R&B singer Akon has said his plans to build a city from scratch will go ahead. Akon has raised funds for a futuristic metropolis with a population of 300,000 people. It will be called Akon City and be built on the coast of Senegal on Africa's west coast. Akon has Senegalese roots. He was born in the USA to Senegalese parents and spent much of his childhood in Africa. He described his city as a "real-life Wakanda," in reference to the city in the movie "Black Panther". He announced that construction on the \$6 billion project will commence next year and is expected to take three years to complete. He hopes his undertaking will provide much-needed employment for Senegalese.

Blueprints on the akoncity.com website show a cityscape of surreal-looking gleaming glass and steel high-rises. The designs of the towering skyscrapers were inspired by traditional sculptures made in African villages. The city will boast high-tech living and high-speed Internet connectivity. Akon wants the city to be a port of call for Senegalese and other Africans facing racial injustice in the USA or Europe. He said: "The system back home treats people unfairly, in so many different ways that you can never imagine. And they only go through it because they feel that there is no other way. So if you're coming from...the diaspora and you feel that you want to visit Africa, we want Senegal to be your first stop."

Sources:
hollywoodreporter.com / face2faceafrica.com / akoncity.com

Writing

All cities should be futuristic. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

American / R&B / singer / futuristic / metropolis / roots / project / construction / cityscape / glass / steel / sculpture / village / injustice / connectivity / diaspora

True / False

- a) Akon will use a new material called scratch to build a city. T / F
- b) Akon City will be home to over 3,000,000 people. T / F
- c) Akon was born in Senegal and moved to the USA as a child. T / F
- d) The city will take three years to complete. T / F
- e) Designs on a website showed thousands of low-rise buildings. T / F
- f) The city's buildings will be based on traditional African sculptures. T / F
- g) Akon said the city will help people who suffer from racial injustice. T / F
- h) Akon wants the African diaspora to visit Senegal. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. funds | a. think |
| 2. metropolis | b. made public |
| 3. roots | c. bizarre |
| 4. announced | d. origins |
| 5. undertaking | e. motivated |
| 6. surreal | f. money |
| 7. inspired | g. enterprise |
| 8. injustice | h. behaves toward |
| 9. treats | i. conurbation |
| 10. feel | j. unfairness |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What is your favourite city?
- c) Do you prefer modern or old cities?
- d) Would you like to live in a gleaming skyscraper?
- e) What is 'high-tech living'?
- f) What do you think of the city being for the African diaspora?
- g) What do you know about Senegal?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Akron?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. plans to build a city | a. sculptures |
| 2. Akon has raised funds for a | b. needed employment |
| 3. built on the coast | c. can never imagine |
| 4. commence | d. of Senegal |
| 5. his undertaking will provide much- | e. looking gleaming glass |
| 6. a cityscape of surreal- | f. connectivity |
| 7. inspired by traditional | g. from scratch |
| 8. high-speed Internet | h. next year |
| 9. in so many different ways that you | i. the diaspora |
| 10. if you're coming from | j. futuristic metropolis |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the singer Akron?
- What do you think of futuristic cities?
- How futuristic is your city?
- Do you prefer big cities or small towns?
- How far back do your roots go?
- What kind of city would you like to live in?
- Would it be better for the world if there were no cities?
- What advice do you have for Akron?

Spelling

- build a city from trhaccs
- a futuristic isreplotm
- in rnceerfee to the city in the movie
- iosroutcctnn on the \$6 billion project
- comeencm next year
- provide much-needed lmoenmytpe
- a cityscape of sralreu-looking gleaming glass
- The designs of the towering ssarpckyer
- inspired by traditional prlstseuc
- high-speed Internet ntenotyvciic
- facing racial stnceuiji
- coming from the adipasro

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. d	4. b	5. g
6. c	7. e	8. j	9. h	10. a

Role Play

Role A – Cairo

You think Cairo is the best city. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cities. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Dubai, Bangkok or Rio de Janeiro.

Role B – Dubai

You think Dubai is the best city. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cities. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Cairo, Bangkok or Rio de Janeiro.

Role C – Bangkok

You think Bangkok is the best city. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cities. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Dubai, Cairo or Rio de Janeiro.

Role D – Rio de Janeiro

You think Rio de Janeiro is the best city. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cities. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Dubai, Bangkok or Cairo.

Speaking – Cities

Rank these with your partner. Put the best cities at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| • Dubai | • Cairo |
| • Tehran | • Rio de Janeiro |
| • Mexico City | • Moscow |
| • Bangkok | • New Delhi |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.