

# Curriculum Extra Unit 7

## History: Soviet apartment blocks

### 1 Match the words in the box with definitions 1–6.

architect housing suburbs shortage rural zones

- 1 areas that are used for a specific purpose \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 houses, flats, etc. for people to live in \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 connected with the countryside; not urban \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 a situation where there isn't enough of something \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 a person whose job is to design buildings \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 an area where people live that is outside the central area of a town or city \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Which photo shows *Khrushchevki*, A or B? Scan the article to find out. \_\_\_\_

A



B



### 3 Read the article and put paragraphs A–E in the correct order (1–5).

#### ***Khrushchevki* – Soviet apartment blocks**

**A** \_\_\_\_ To solve the housing problem, Stalin instructed that cities be divided into zones where apartment blocks were built in different styles. Many of these were very grand buildings which were beautifully decorated on the outside, but they couldn't accommodate the masses of people who needed a home.

**B** \_\_\_\_ In 1917, 80% of the Russian Empire was rural, but this all changed when Stalin came to power. The Industrial Revolution of the 1920s and 1930s happened so fast that many people in the countryside were left without enough food. Millions of people left villages and moved to cities to look for work, resulting in an extreme housing shortage.

**C** \_\_\_\_ *Khrushchevki* were only intended to last for 25 years. Some of them still exist today; however, they are in poor condition. In 1999, the mayor of Moscow announced a plan to demolish all the city's *Khrushchevki* and provide new housing for the people who lived in them. Those that still remain, however, are a powerful reminder of a particular time in Soviet history.

**D** \_\_\_\_ The apartment blocks, which were between three and five storeys high, could be built in as little as 45 to 50 days. They were named *Khrushchevki*, after Khrushchev. Over the next ten years, thousands of new housing areas for workers appeared, which had *Khrushchevki*, trees, benches, fountains and playgrounds. Health centres, shops, schools, cinemas and shops were also built in these districts, making them pleasant places to live.

**E** \_\_\_\_ When Nikita Khrushchev became leader in 1958, he tried to improve the standard of living for ordinary Soviet citizens. In his previous job, he'd supported the development of low-cost, quick-to-build apartment blocks built from large pieces of factory-made concrete. Under his leadership, thousands of these buildings were constructed across the Soviet Union, mostly in city suburbs.

### 4 Are statements 1–6 true (T) or false (F)? Read the article again and check your answers.

- 1 In the 1930s, most people in the Soviet Union lived in the countryside. \_\_\_\_
- 2 Stalin wanted simple, cheap apartment buildings in cities. \_\_\_\_
- 3 *Khrushchevki* were built in the 50s and 60s. \_\_\_\_
- 4 *Khrushchevki* could be built in less than two months. \_\_\_\_

5 *Khrushchevki* improved people's standard of living at the time. \_\_\_\_

6 There aren't any *Khrushchevki* left in Moscow today. \_\_\_\_

### 5 Write a description of your town or city. What different types of housing are there? Write in your notebook.