



# Hong Kong



**Hong Kong**  
**is now the most crowded place on earth**  
**But 160 years ago it was very different**  
**In 1845 only 24,000 people**  
**lived in Hong Kong**  
**and there were only 700 houses.**





**Life was hard, and every summer hundreds  
of people died  
of malaria  
(Now there is no malaria in Hong Kong.)**



**Hong Kong looked very different then  
farmers rode cows  
in the center of the town  
and ducks ran about in the streets.**






Now there are nearly  
seven million people  
in Hong Kong  
and the government builds  
40,000 houses every year.






These days people drive cars,  
taxis and buses in the town center  
but they never ride cows





In 1844 a traveler complained  
that his small  
wet bedroom in Hong Kong  
was more expensive  
than a first-class hotel in London



**Hong Kong is still one of  
the most expensive places  
in the world**

**Sadly  
some things never change**