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The form, function, and size of urban settlements changes constantly and the built landscapes and social space reflect the attitudes and values of a population.

 The size of cities consistently changes, as the city’s inhabitants constantly build up land in order to construct retail and office buildings, skyscrapers, businesses, and markets for their use. The use of land can change depending on the location of a plot of land close to the central business district, as that is the center of all manufacturing, produce, and department stores in a city. After having lived in McKinney, a city on the outskirts of Dallas, I have witnessed the growth and progress of the Dallas metropolis, as well as have traveled to the area many times. On one such occasion, I went to the aquarium, and began to understand the idea that stores with higher thresholds and ranges are placed in the CBD after witnessing the luxurious and special goods that were sold there. Furthermore, I have been able to use models to demonstrate the growth of Dallas, and its relationship to McKinney, thereby allowing me to understand how cities constantly change.

 After growing up in McKinney, Texas, I have witnessed the vast growth of the Dallas metropolis, as well as its edge cities, as new buildings have been constructed in order to meet the satisfaction of those in the city. Last year, I had the opportunity to attend the Dallas Aquarium with my family on a summer day in June, and was able to spend a day in Dallas, visiting the interesting retail buildings and public services that are available in the area. At the aquarium, which costs $21.95, I was able to see interesting and amazing creatures that are not available to see in my everyday lifestyle in McKinney, Texas. The cost of the aquarium, although expensive for an activity on a day in the summer, was necessary, due to the specialized public service that the aquarium offered, as this sort of entertainment is not common in the edge cities of Dallas. Thus, the aquarium is an example of a service that offers a high threshold and range, due to its appeal to people that live several miles away from the central business district, and the large amount of people it needs to consistently stay open. After the aquarium, my family was able to attend a restaurant, named Texas de Brazil, for dinner, and then went to the Clyde Warren Park, near an assortment of expensive and specialized stores. There were several areas of construction, with new incoming buildings and skyscrapers, which would increase the amount of shoppers in the Dallas metropolis. Thus, as I visited the area, I was able to see how the city consistently grew in size, and how land area was used based on the needs and values of the people, as inhabitants from other cities traveled to the central business district in order to buy custom sized clothing or goods.

 Models can help depict the growth of a city, as well as its development over time, and why it developed the way it did. The Galactic City Model helps demonstrate the development of the Dallas metropolis, due to its role as a central business district, as well as its relationship with cities around its outskirts, such as McKinney, Frisco, and Allen. These cities play a decisive role with the businesses provided by the CBD, because they supply the amount of people needed to sustain the stores and buildings that operate in the central business district. Thus, the Galactic City Model helps accurately portray the relationship between the cities surrounding Dallas, because it depicts their responsibility in supplying consumers, as well as the centrality and the node of businesses that other cities revolve around. This model helps provide the framework for an analysis of the use of urban land area in Dallas, because it helps geographers understand the distribution and size of cities, as well as the amount and depth of contact between the central business districts, and its surrounding nodes of suburban houses, and manufacturing centers. Thus, even though the form and function of cities consistently changes, models can still accurately help geographers analyze the use of urban land area, which I have had the opportunity to learn throughout my experience in Dallas after attending the Dallas Aquarium.

 The size of cities often changes, as the city’s inhabitants build up land in order to construct buildings and businesses for use by citizens located in the central business district, as well as those that live around it. The use of land can change depending on the location of land and its relationship to the central business district. After having lived in McKinney, a city that surrounds Dallas, I have witnessed the growth of the Dallas area; especially after visiting the Dallas aquarium. I was able begin to understand how stores with higher thresholds and ranges are placed in the CBD after witnessing the luxurious and special goods that were sold there. Furthermore, I have been able to use models to demonstrate the growth of Dallas, and its relationship to McKinney, thereby allowing me to understand how cities change over time.