



## Lesson 8: Conservation and Preservation

In this lesson, students identify the opportunities for and implications of conservation in their own community.

**Support material:** Worksheet B9, Information Sheet 30 “Architectural Heritage” .



### Spotlight

The value of our architectural heritage



### Key Concepts

Conservation. Change.

### Definitions

**Conservation** — To prolong the life of something. In the case of a building, this may involve repairs, alterations, additions and new uses. In the case of a town (urban conservation), this may include actions taken to help the economic and social survival of the community: new jobs, new services, new buildings, filling the gaps left by demolition, building a by-pass etc.

**Preservation** — To maintain something in its present state so that it does not suffer damage or deterioration. This strategy is most often applied to very ancient buildings or to buildings of exceptional architectural or historical merit.

In conservation, the challenge is to adapt a building or place to today’s needs while still maintaining its original character. In preservation, the challenge is to find a use which does not require any changes to the building, or, if the building is not to be used (a ruined monastery, for example), a way to pay for its maintenance.

### Brainstorming

Referring to maps, drawings, photographs, written evidence, and the information collected on the field trip in Lesson 7, discuss the ways in which conservation and preservation are relevant in your community. Use Information Sheet 30 “Architectural Heritage” to guide the discussion.

- Which buildings/monuments/landmarks/spaces are key elements in the story of your community?
- List these in order of importance.
- Which should be conserved? Which should be preserved?
- Should every old building be conserved/preserved?
- What problems might arise in the appearance of the community — street lines/roof lines — if buildings are replaced or altered? Is there an example of this in your community?
- Should “old” and “new” styles be mixed? When might this be an appropriate/inappropriate thing to do?
- How can we ensure that architectural advances can be made in the future?