Social inequalities in the BosWash corridor
Teacher's sheet

Cette activité s'inscrit dans un chapitre en marge du programme de **géographie de 1ère** sur la **Métropolisation**, et plus particulièrement, **l'exemple de la mégalopole du nord-est américain (=BosWash)**.

Les élèves ont préalablement étudié les caractéristiques de la mégalopole et des métropoles qui la composent, les attributs de sa puissance, les liens entre les villes et avec le reste du monde, ainsi que les effets de la métropolisation sur l'organisation spatiale des villes. Le but est de voir la conséquence de la métropolisation sur la population.
Mais l'activité peut-être intégrée différemment dans le chapitre du moment que les élèves maitrisent la géographie de la BosWash

L'activité est prévue pour prendre entre 2 et 3 heures aux élèves, qui peuvent travailler en plusieurs fois.

L'activité se déroule en 2 temps.
1. D'abord, les élèves répondent à des questions générales sur les inégalités sociale dans toute la BosWash puis dans une ville de leur choix entre New York, Boston et Washington DC à partir de cartes, statistiques et autres informations trouvées dans le site : https://storymaps.esri.com/stories/2016/wealth-divides/index.html (si le site ne fonctionne pas bien, des captures d'écran avec les principales informations sont disponibles ici: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1B1ofWCZHJeXeS2H8JYI0CZF3smw8BIWO . Corrigé des questions ci-dessous, en fin de fichier.
2. A partir de leurs notes, les élèves réalisent un enregistrement sonore qui doit durer entre 1 et 2 mn sur le sujet : « **Social inequalities in the BosWash corridor**», avec une courte introduction et une courte conclusion.
3. Ils doivent ensuite envoyer leur enregistrement par NEO.

Proposition de critères d'évaluation pour l'enregistrement:
Respect du temps « entre 1 et 2 mn » : /1
Introduction et conclusion succinctes et adaptées au sujet: /2
Développement clair, organisé et répondant au sujet /4
Qualité de la langue /3

Proposition de synthèse (très résumée) à envoyer par la suite aux élèves sous forme de texte à trous à gauche, avec corrigé (à droite):

The concentration of activities and powers in the city centers (due to _____) leads to increasing social _____ among the population. This creates a fragmentation in the cities because the richest and poorest people don't live in the same neighborhoods, even if, sometimes, they're not far away from each other. This is called **socio-spatial segregation**.

For example, in NYC: people from the upper east side of _____ earn more than $100.000 a year while in _____ they earn less than $25.000.

In some cases, _____ (=the process by which a place, especially part of a city, changes from being a poor area to a richer one, where people from a higher social class live), pushes the poorest people away from the neighborhoods where they used to live because housing prices increase and they can't afford to buy or rent anymore. It's the case in _____ in NYC for example.

So, we can say that metropolization doesn't benefit everyone as it increases the social gap between the poorest and the richest people…

The concentration of activities and powers in the city centers (due to **metropolization)** leads to increasing **social inequalities** among the population. This creates a fragmentation in the cities because the richest and poorest people don't live in the same neighborhoods, even if, sometimes, they're not far away from each other. This is called **socio-spatial segregation**.

For example, in NYC: people from the upper east side of **Central Park** earn more than $100.000 a year while in **Harlem** they earn less than $25.000.

In some cases, **gentrification** (=the process by which a place, especially part of a city, changes from being a poor area to a richer one, where people from a higher social class live), pushes the poorest people away from the neighborhoods where they used to live because housing prices increase and they can't afford to buy or rent anymore. It's the case in **Brooklyn** in NYC for example.

So, we can say that metropolization doesn't benefit everyone as it increases the social gap between the poorest and the richest people…

Corrigé des questions:

1. **How has the proportion of people belonging to the middle class evolved since the mid-20th century? Give examples from cities located in the BosWash corridor.**

For the first time in recorded history, the middle class no longer constitutes the nation's economic majority, as upper- and lower-class households together comprise over 50 percent of the population.
Philadelphia, NYC and Boston: reduction of the middle class…

2. **How many of the BosWash cities belong to the top ten with the greatest income inequality? Which ones?**

5: Boston, Providence, New Haven, Washington DC, NYC.

NYC:

1. **Where do most of the wealthiest (=richest) residents of NYC live? In what sort of housing?**

Most of New York City's wealthiest residents live in Manhattan, where income disparity is heightened by high densities – and high-rises. Several super-tall condominium buildings have been built in recent years, with apartment prices topping out at or near a quarter-billion dollars.

2. **What proportion of New-Yorkers live below the poverty line?**

One in five New Yorkers lives below the poverty line

3. **What proportion of the New-Yorkers living in Manhattan earned more than $860,000 in 2014?**

The top five percent of Manhattanites earned more than $860,000 in 2014.

4. **Compare the 2016 median household income of a neighborhood located south of Central Park, and another one located north of Central Park? Compare the number you found to the average US median household income.**

South: most people earned more than $100,000 in 2016. North: most people earned less than $70,000 and even less than $35,000 in many cases. The US average median household income is $54,149.

5. **Generally speaking, are people living in Manhattan (around Central Park) rather rich or poor?**

Rich In this census tract, 5, 319 people live in 2, 454 households; 821 households have an income greater than $200,000; 317 households have an income less than $25,000
What about Harlem (north)? Poor; In this census tract, 6, 907 people live in 2, 812 households. 23 households have an income greater than $200,000; 1, 616 households have an income less than $25,000

6. **Which neighborhood is influenced by gentrification in NYC?**

Brooklyn

BOSTON

1. **What's Boston rank on the list of the cities with the greatest income inequality?**

1st.

2. **What proportion of Bostonians made more than $266,224 ?**

Bostonians in the top five percent of earners made $266,224 a year

3. **What proportion of Bostonians made less than $14,925 ?**

just $14,925 for people in the bottom 20 percent.

4. **Where do most of the wealthiest (=richest) residents of Boston live?**

Most of the Boston metro area's wealthier households are in outlying towns, including Brookline and Weston...

5. **Compare the 2016 median household income of a neighborhood located in the Jamaica Plain, and another one located in Forest Hill? Compare the number you found to the average US median household income.**
Jamaica Plain: $169,291
Forest Hill: $34,366

6. **Generally speaking, are people living in Newton rather rich or poor?** Rich: 752 households have an income greater than $200,000; 61 households have an income less than $25,000
What about Lynn? Poor: 3 households have an income greater than $200,000; 1 327 households have an income less than $25,000

Washington DC
1. **Describe Washington's wealth divide**
splits the city into east-west halves. The exception: the historic Capitol Hill neighborhood, visible as a blue island at center.

2. **Where are the wealthiest suburbs of Washington DC located? Give 3 names as examples.**
Northwest Washington ; Bethesda, Chevy Chase, and Potomac, Maryland...

3. **Where are the poorest suburbs of Washington DC located? What's the major type of population there?**
Eastward ; African-American districts

4. **How are the neighborhoods north of downtown evolving?**
Neighborhoods north of downtown are rapidly gentrifying.

5. **Compare the 2016 median household income of a neighborhood located in Spring Valley, and another one located in Fort Lincoln? Compare the number you found to the average US median household income.**
Spring Valley: more than 200,000; Fort Lincoln : 16,736.

6. **Generally speaking, are people living in Maryland's Montgomery County rather rich or poor?**
Rich: 1, 030 households have an income greater than $200,000; 39 households have an income less than $25,000
What about Prince George's County, Maryland,? 13 households have an income greater than $200,000; 242 households have an income less than $25,000

7. **Why do low-income families move out of Washington DC?**
The causes of income inequality – as well as its potential solutions – tend to be complex, and vary considerably from place to place. But a common phenomenon in many U.S. cities is the pressure put on low-income families by rising housing costs. Rents have skyrocketed in Washington and many other cities. Providing affordable housing is one way communities can begin to address the growing gap between rich and poor.