Understanding Population with Finn

Learning objective: To understand the concept of population and how people are distributed across the world.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

Finn the dolphin loves exploring the coastlines of the world, but today he is helping us learn about human population. Population is the total number of people living in a particular area, such as a town, a country, or the whole planet. Finn noticed that people are not distributed evenly across the Earth.

In some places, like big cities, the population is 'densely populated'. This means there are many people living close together in a small space. These areas often have tall buildings and busy streets. In other places, like the deep countryside or frozen tundra, the land is 'sparsely populated'. In these rural areas, houses are far apart and there is plenty of open space.

People usually choose to live where it is easiest to survive. They look for fertile land for farming, a fresh water supply, and a mild climate. Areas with extreme weather or very steep mountains usually have much smaller populations because it is harder to build homes and grow food there.

Word bank: Population · Distributed · Densely · Sparsely · Rural

1. What is the definition of 'population' according to the text? (1 mark)

2. Which two examples of sparsely populated areas does Finn mention? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think people prefer to live in areas with a 'mild climate' rather than extreme weather? (2 marks)

4. How can you tell the difference between a densely populated area and a sparsely populated area based on the description of the buildings? (2 marks)

5. Finn thinks it is better to live in a sparsely populated area because it is quieter. Do you agree? Explain why or why not using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a split picture: on one side, show a densely populated city with tall buildings, and on the other, show a sparsely populated rural area with plenty of open space.

Extension challenge: Research the population of your own town or city. Is it more densely or sparsely populated compared to the rest of the UK?