

Year 5 Geography: Understanding Population

Learning objective: To describe and explain how and why populations change and how human activity impacts the distribution of people across the United Kingdom.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of geography and population patterns to provide detailed answers. Use full sentences where required.

Finn the dolphin has been travelling along the coast of the United Kingdom. He has noticed that some areas, like the bustling city of London, have thousands of people living very close together. In other areas, such as the remote Scottish Highlands, there are very few people living in large spaces of land. Finn wants to understand why people choose to live where they do and how our towns and cities have grown over time.

Word bank: Population density · Urbanisation · Rural · Migration · Infrastructure · Settlement · Distribution · Resources

1. Define the term 'population density' in your own words. (2 marks)

2. Look at the UK map in your mind. Why do you think most major cities in the UK developed near rivers or the coast? Give two reasons. (4 marks)

3. Explain the difference between a rural area and an urban area. (3 marks)

4. Max the monkey is looking at a map. He notices that many people have moved from the countryside to cities over the last 100 years. What is the name for this process, and suggest one reason why people might choose to move to a city? (4 marks)

5. Describe two ways that a rapid increase in population can affect a local town's infrastructure (for example, transport or schools). (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing: Imagine a new town is being built in a remote area. Write a paragraph explaining three important things the town planners must include to support a growing population and keep the community happy. (8 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram showing a 'Rural' landscape on the left side of the page and an 'Urban' landscape on the right. Include at least two features for each (e.g., farmland for rural, high-rise buildings for urban).



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Think about the UK's population. If you were in charge of a new housing development, would you prefer to build it on a 'greenfield' site (land that has never been built on) or a 'brownfield' site (land that was previously used for factories)? Explain your choice in two sentences.