

Finn's Global Population Mapping Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the distribution of human population and identify the factors that influence where people choose to settle.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the world's coastlines and cities. He has noticed that some areas are densely populated (full of people), while others are sparsely populated (very few people). Look at the list of geographical features below. Decide if each feature would encourage a large population (Dense) or discourage one (Sparse). Write your answer next to each item and explain your reasoning using the vocabulary provided.

Word bank: settlement · infrastructure · climate · resource · topography · dense · sparse · coastal

1. A flat, fertile river valley with a mild climate. Is this dense or sparse? Justify your choice. (2 marks)

2. A jagged, high mountain range with freezing temperatures. Is this dense or sparse? Explain why. (2 marks)

3. A remote desert with very little access to fresh water. Is this dense or sparse? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

4. A bustling harbour city with strong trade links and modern infrastructure. Is this dense or sparse? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the settlement patterns of a coastal region versus a deep rainforest. Why might human populations differ so greatly? (3 marks)

6. What might happen if a new, large factory was built in a previously sparse rural area? How would the population density change over time? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of an imaginary island. Include one 'Dense' area near the coast with lots of houses and roads, and one 'Sparse' area in the mountains with only a few small cabins.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a town planner. You have been given a budget of £5,000,000 to build a new settlement in an empty region. List three essential resources or services you would provide to encourage families to move there and explain why these are vital for a growing population.