

Mapping Our Growing World

Learning objective: To understand the concept of population, including why people choose to live in certain locations and the impact of human settlement.

Read the passage below carefully. Use your geographical knowledge and the clues in the text to answer the questions that follow. For the extension task, think critically about the future of our towns and cities.

Finn the dolphin loves to travel along the coastline, observing how human settlements change. A population is the total number of people living in a specific place, whether it is a tiny village or a bustling city. In the United Kingdom, some areas have high population density, meaning many people live close together in urban environments. This is often because cities offer more jobs, transport links, and essential services like hospitals. Conversely, rural areas have lower population density, where people enjoy more open space and agricultural land. Finn has noticed that populations are not static; they are constantly shifting. People move for many reasons, such as seeking better opportunities, moving closer to family, or wanting a quieter pace of life. As populations grow, town planners must ensure there is enough infrastructure, such as schools, housing, and shops, to support everyone. Managing resources effectively is a vital challenge for the future. Whether a place is crowded or quiet, every community relies on its members working together to create a thriving environment where everyone can flourish.

Word bank: population · settlement · urban · rural · infrastructure · density · resources

1. According to the text, what are two reasons why people might choose to live in an urban environment rather than a rural one? (2 marks)

2. What is the definition of population density provided in the passage? (2 marks)

3. Explain why town planners have a difficult job when a population in a city grows very quickly. (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why might a family decide to move from a busy city to a quiet rural village? (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is better for a country to have mostly large cities or mostly small villages? Justify your answer using geographical reasons. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a split-screen illustration. On the left side, draw a high-density urban city scene with tall buildings and trains. On the right side, draw a low-density rural scene with farms, trees, and wide-open spaces.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an urban planner for a new town. Write a short proposal (100 words) explaining which three facilities (e.g., schools, parks, transport) are most important for a growing population and why. Justify your choices by explaining how they improve the quality of life for the residents.