

People and Places: A Study of Population

Learning objective: To describe and explain patterns in human population distribution using geographical vocabulary.

Use this scaffold to write a report about why people choose to live in certain places. Use the word bank to help you build complex sentences and include your own geographical reasoning.

Across the globe, human populations are distributed unevenly, with some regions bustling with activity while others remain vast, quiet wildernesses.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · densely populated · sparsely populated · infrastructure · urbanisation · essential resources · in contrast · due to · settlement patterns

1. Introduction: Define what population density means and explain why it is important to study where people choose to settle. Start with: Population density refers to... (2 marks)

2. Physical Factors: Explain how the physical environment, such as climate or terrain, influences where people live. Start with: The physical geography of a region, including its climate and landforms, acts as... (3 marks)

3. Human Factors: Describe the human-made reasons why cities grow larger than rural villages. Start with: Beyond the natural environment, human factors such as employment opportunities and infrastructure play a crucial role because... (3 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: Compare a densely populated city with a sparsely populated rural area. Start with: Whilst a bustling city offers many services, a sparsely populated area might be preferred by some people because... (4 marks)

5. Justification: Justify why certain locations, such as those near rivers or coasts, have historically attracted larger populations. Start with: Historically, humans have chosen to settle near water sources because... (3 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise your findings and predict how population patterns might change in the future. Start with: In conclusion, the way humans distribute themselves across the Earth is complex; however, I believe that in the future... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an urban planner like Kit the fox. Explain what might happen if a city's population doubled in size overnight. What essential resources would be under the most pressure, and how would you adapt the city's infrastructure to accommodate the new residents? Justify your solutions.