

Mapping the World's People: A Population Explorer's Challenge

Learning objective: To understand global population distribution, identify reasons for varying population densities, and analyse the impact of human settlement.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the world from the shore. He has gathered data on different types of settlements. Your task is to act as a Geographer: classify each region based on Finn's findings, justify your reasoning using geographical vocabulary, and solve the population dilemmas provided below.

Word bank: Densely populated · Sparsely populated · Urbanisation · Migration · Resources · Climate · Infrastructure · Settlement

1. Finn observes a region with a mountain range, temperatures below freezing, and very few roads. Is this area likely to be densely or sparsely populated? Explain your answer using the term 'climate'. (2 marks)

2. A thriving city centre has high-speed internet, multiple hospitals, and thousands of jobs. Explain why people are attracted to this area, using the term 'infrastructure'. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast a rural village with a major capital city. Why might the population density differ so significantly between the two? (3 marks)

4. If a new, large factory opens in a previously quiet, empty area, what might happen to the population? Justify your prediction. (2 marks)

5. Imagine you are planning a brand-new town. List two vital 'resources' you would need to ensure people want to live there and explain why they are essential. (2 marks)

6. Reflect: If the global population continues to grow rapidly, what challenges might we face regarding our natural environment? Give a detailed reason for your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Population Map' of an imaginary island. Use a colour key to show where the population is 'densely populated' (e.g., red) and 'sparsely populated' (e.g., green). Include labels for a mountain range, a river, and a major city.



Extension challenge: Write a short, persuasive letter to the 'Town Council' of a small, sparsely populated village. Propose one way to encourage more people to move there while keeping the local environment safe and sustainable. Use at least four words from the word bank in your argument.