

Population Explorer: Investigating Human Geography

Learning objective: To understand the factors that influence human population distribution and density, and to analyse how settlements grow over time.

Use this fact-file template to document your research on a specific settlement. Think like Finn the dolphin as you map out the geographical features, and consider Max's maths skills to explain why people choose to live in certain areas. Use the word bank to help develop your responses.

Word bank: population density · urbanisation · settlement · infrastructure · migration · resources · climate · topography · services

1. Defining the Location: Identify your chosen settlement and describe its primary geographical features. Explain why these physical features might attract or deter human settlement. (2 marks)

2. Population Density: Define the term 'population density'. Compare and contrast a sparsely populated rural area with a densely populated urban city. (3 marks)

3. Resource Assessment: List three essential resources (e.g., water, fuel, food) that a large population requires. Justify why these are vital for survival in a growing town. (3 marks)

4. Push and Pull Factors: Explain why people might migrate to your chosen settlement. What 'pull' factors encourage them to move there, and what 'push' factors might they be leaving behind? (4 marks)

5. Future Forecasting: What might happen to this settlement if the population continues to increase rapidly over the next fifty years? Consider the impact on infrastructure and the environment. (4 marks)

6. Critical Evaluation: If you were tasked with planning a new town, how would you balance the need for more housing with the need to protect the natural environment? Justify your strategy. (5 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'Future-Proof City' map. Label your zones for housing, industry, and green spaces. Beneath your map, write a persuasive paragraph explaining how your design manages high population density while maintaining a high quality of life for all residents.