

Exploring Global Populations with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To understand the distribution of human population, identify factors influencing settlement, and analyse how population density varies across different regions.

Finn the Dolphin has travelled the globe and noticed that people do not live evenly across the Earth. Use your geographical knowledge to answer these questions about population distribution and density.

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

1. Finn observes that many people choose to live near major rivers or coastlines. Explain why physical geography influences where human settlements are established. (2 marks)

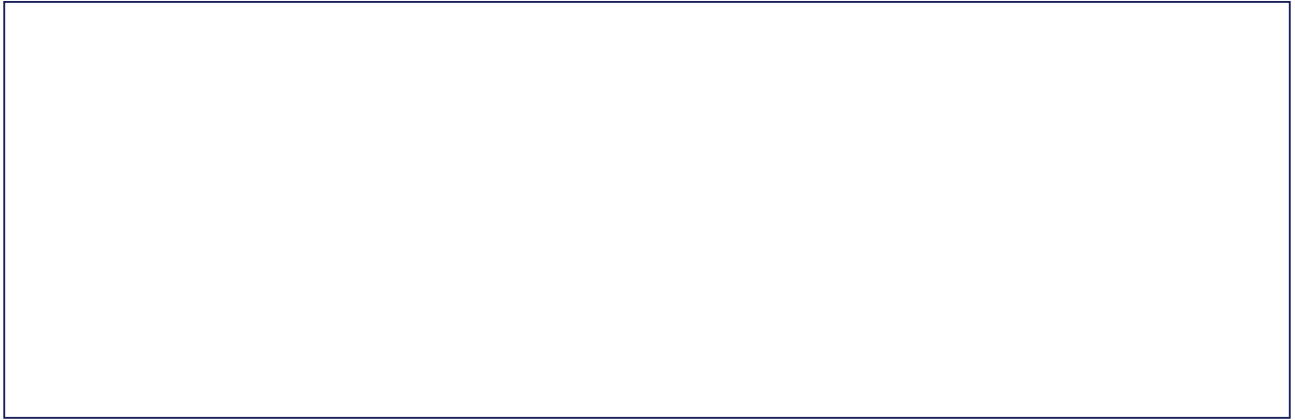
2. Define the term 'population density'. If a small island has a very high population density, what challenges might the local government face regarding housing and services? (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast a rural village with a densely populated city. What are two differences in the way people live in these two types of settlements? (2 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Why might a mountainous, frozen region have a very low population density compared to a fertile river valley? (2 marks)

5. If a new, large factory were built in a sparsely populated area, what might happen to the local population size? Describe the process that would occur. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw two separate maps side-by-side: one showing a 'Sparsely Populated' area (with vast green spaces and few houses) and one showing a 'Densely Populated' city (with tall buildings, transport networks, and many people). Label the features that show why people might choose to live in the city.



Extension challenge: Imagine a country where the population is rapidly increasing. Write a short persuasive paragraph explaining how the government should plan for the future. Consider: Where will people live? How will they travel? How will the environment be protected? Use at least four words from the word bank in your response.