# Mapping Our World: Population Patterns

*Learning objective: To understand why populations are unevenly distributed and identify factors that influence where people choose to live.*

Finn the dolphin has been mapping human settlements from the coast. He has noticed that some places are very crowded, while others are nearly empty. Read the list of factors below and sort them into two columns: 'Attracts People' (reasons to live in an area) and 'Repels People' (reasons to avoid an area). Once you have sorted them, answer the questions to explain why these factors matter.

*Word bank: Flat fertile land · Extreme temperatures · Lack of clean water · Job opportunities · High mountain ranges · Good transport links · Reliable food supply · Risk of natural disasters*

**1. Choose one factor from the 'Attracts People' list and explain why it would make a town grow larger over time. (2 marks)**

**2. Choose one factor from the 'Repels People' list and explain why it makes it difficult for a large population to survive there. (2 marks)**

**3. If a new factory opened in a remote village, how might that change the population density of the area? (2 marks)**

**4. Why do you think most major cities in the UK were built near rivers or the coast? Think about trade and resources. (2 marks)**

**5. Define 'population density' in your own words. Why is it useful for geographers to know how many people live in a specific square kilometre? (2 marks)**

**Draw: Draw a sketch of two different locations: 'Location A' (a busy city with tall buildings and transport) and 'Location B' (a sparse, rural area with mountains). Label one physical feature (like a river or mountain) in each drawing that explains why people might or might not live there.**

*Extension challenge: Research a city in the UK. Find out its current population and the size of the area it covers. If you were a town planner, what is one thing you would build in that city to make life better for its residents?*