Mapping Our Growing World

Learning objective: To understand the concept of population and the factors that influence where people choose to live.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences.

Finn the dolphin has spent his life travelling the world's oceans, but he has become fascinated by the land. He observes that humans do not spread themselves out evenly across the Earth. Instead, they often cluster together in large groups. The population—the total number of people living in a specific place—is much higher in cities than in the countryside. These urban areas offer many resources, such as schools, hospitals, and jobs, which attract people from all over. In contrast, rural areas often have a lower population density, meaning there is more open space per person. Finn has noticed that people migrate, or move, for many reasons. Some move to find warmer climates, while others seek better opportunities for their families. Sometimes, a population grows because more people are born than pass away, or because new residents arrive from abroad. Understanding these patterns helps us see how our world is connected. Just like the coral reefs Finn explores, human communities rely on balance and space to thrive. By studying population, we can better plan for the future of our towns and cities.

Word bank: population · urban · rural · density · migration · resources

1. According to the text, what are two reasons why people might choose to move to an urban area? (2 marks)

2. What is the difference between an 'urban' area and a 'rural' area? (2 marks)

3. Why might a country's population increase even if no one moves there from abroad? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why do you think humans might prefer living in clusters rather than being spread out evenly? (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is better to live in a high-density city or a low-density rural area? Justify your opinion using at least one point from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a split-screen image: on the left, show a bustling city with tall buildings and many people (urban), and on the right, show a quiet countryside scene with fields and few houses (rural).

Extension challenge: Research a city in the UK and find its current population. Compare it to the population of a small village in your local county. Why is the difference so large?