Mapping Our Community: Population and Settlements

Learning objective: To understand the distribution of human settlements and identify factors that influence population density.

Use the drawing prompt below to create your map. Once your map is complete, use the word bank to label the key features of your settlement. Finally, answer the questions to demonstrate your understanding of population geography.

Draw: Draw a large map of a fictional region. Divide your map into two distinct sections: an 'Urban Area' on the left and a 'Rural Area' on the right. In the Urban Area, draw high-rise buildings, busy roads, and a train station. In the Rural Area, draw a small village, fields for farming, and a river. Use a key to show where the population is most dense (use a darker colour for high density and a lighter colour for low density).

Label words: Urban area · Rural area · Transport links · Employment hub · Residential zone · Natural resources

Steps:

1. Identify one 'human' reason why many people choose to live in an urban area rather than a remote rural area.
2. What does the term 'population density' mean? Explain it in your own words.

3. Label your drawing to show where you have placed a 'residential zone' and explain why you chose that specific location.

4. If a new factory were built in your rural area, how might the population of that area change over time?

5. Name one physical feature (like a river or a mountain) that might stop a settlement from growing in a certain direction.