Exploring Global Population with Finn the Dolphin

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

Read each question carefully and use your geography knowledge to provide detailed answers. Think about why some places have more people than others.

Finn the Dolphin has travelled all across the world's oceans, looking at the coastlines where humans build their homes. He has noticed that some places are crowded with cities, while other areas have very few people at all. Use your understanding of population to answer the questions below.

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

1. Define the term 'population density'. If a small town has a very high population density, what does that tell you about the space available for each person? (2 marks)

2. Identify two physical geographical features (such as weather or terrain) that might make it difficult for a large population to settle in a specific area. (2 marks)

3. Explain why many people choose to move from rural areas to urban areas. Use the term 'urbanisation' in your answer. (2 marks)

4. Look at these two imaginary locations: Area A is a desert with very little water. Area B is a fertile river valley with good roads and jobs. Which area would have a higher population and why? (2 marks)

5. If a new factory is built in a small village, how might this impact the population of that area over the next ten years? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch comparing a 'rural' landscape with a 'densely populated urban' landscape. Make sure to include labels for features like schools, houses, and transport links.

Extension challenge: Research the population of your own town or city. Write a short paragraph explaining why you think it is either sparsely or densely populated based on the local geography and history.