Finn’s World: Understanding Population

Learning objective: To understand the meaning of population and explore why some places have more people than others.

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

Finn the dolphin loves to travel across the globe, mapping the world's geography. From the ocean, Finn often looks at the land to see where people live. He has learned that 'population' is simply the total number of people living in a specific place, like a town, a country, or even the whole world.

Some places, like big cities, have a high population. These are called urban areas. People often choose to live there because there are many shops, schools, hospitals, and jobs nearby. Other places, like small villages in the countryside, have a lower population. These are known as rural areas. In these places, there is usually more space, quieter roads, and lots of green fields for farming.

People choose where to live based on what they need. A good settlement needs access to clean water, food, and safe shelter. Whether the population is large or small, every community relies on these important resources to grow and thrive. Finn enjoys watching how humans build their homes to suit the land around them, creating unique neighbourhoods all over our planet.

Word bank: population · settlement · urban · rural · resources · community

1. What is the definition of 'population' according to the text? (2 marks)

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

3. Why might a person prefer to live in a city instead of a small village? (2 marks)

4. Why do you think people choose to live near places with plenty of water and food? (2 marks)

5. Would you prefer to live in a busy urban area or a quiet rural area? Give one reason for your choice. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw two different scenes: one showing a busy city with tall buildings and lots of people (urban), and one showing a quiet countryside village with farms and trees (rural).

Extension challenge: Research your own town or city. Is it an urban or rural area? Can you find out how many people live there?