





The Geography of Population



Why People Move



ECONOMICS

Resources and **Economics**



GOVERNMENT

Why We Need Government

Human Geography



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do natural resources affect a country's population distribution and economy?

CONNECT A Geography & History

Use the satellite image and the time line to answer the following questions.

- 1. How much did the world's population grow between 1 A.D. and 2000?
- 2. How different would this image have appeared when the population of the world hit one billion?

1000 B.C.

History

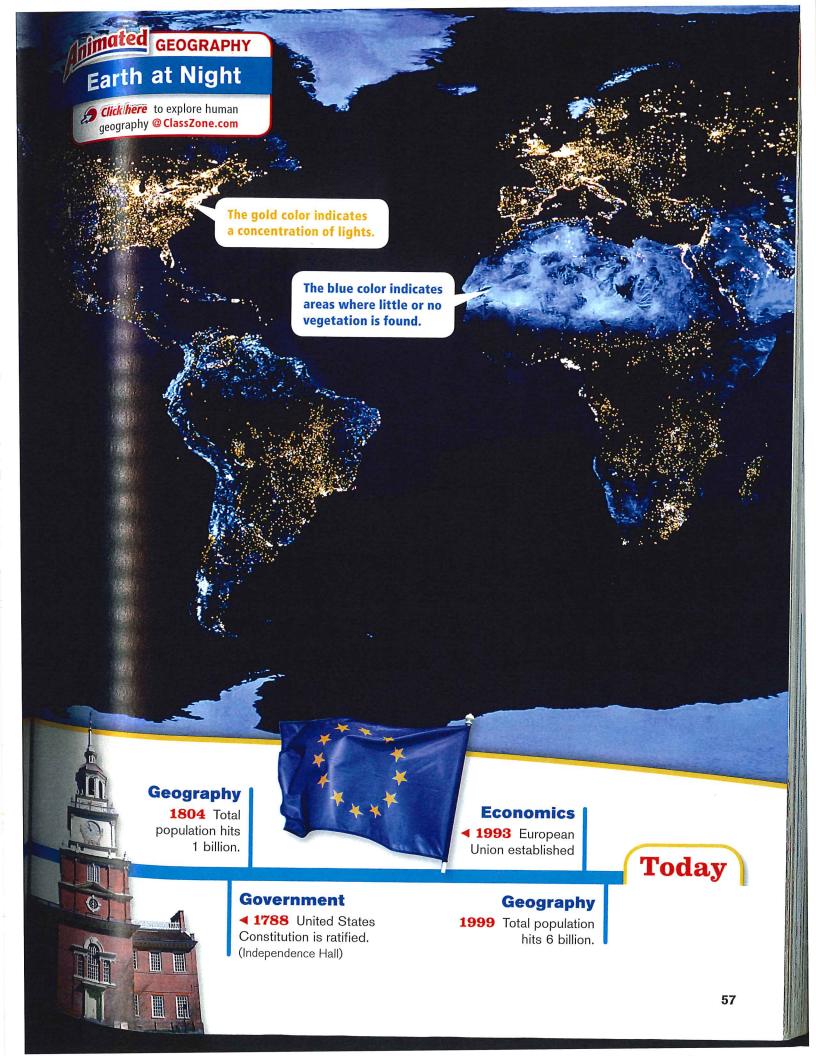
4 1000 B.C. Bantu migrations in Africa

Geography

1 A.D. Total world population hits 300 million.

History

180 Roman Empire at its peak



SECTION 1

Reading for Understanding

Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

The interlocking physical systems of the Earth make life on the planet possible.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

People are not equally distributed on the Earth's surface.

Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

population the number of people who live in a specified area

birth rate the number of births per 1,000 people per year

death rate the number of deaths per 1,000 people per year

rate of natural increase the death rate subtracted from the birth rate

population density the average number of people who live in a certain area

urbanization the process of city development

demographer a geographer who studies the characteristics of human populations

BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

habitable lands lands suitable for human living

urban relating to, or located in, a cityrural relating to the country or farming



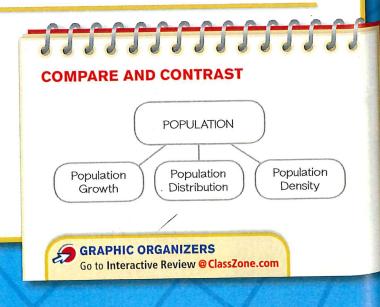
Visual Vocabulary Urbanization (Los Angeles, California)

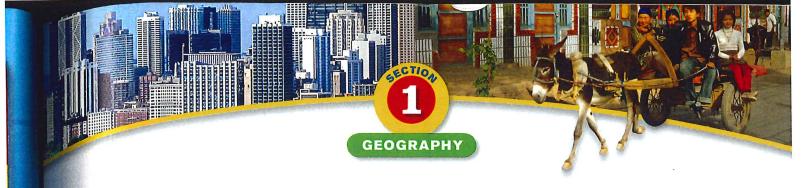
Reading Strategy

Re-create the web diagram shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the diagram to help you identify important details to compare and contrast population growth, distribution, and density.



📜 See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R9





The Geography of Population

Connecting to Your World

Do you know how many people there are in the world? About 6.5 billion! In the time it takes you to read this paragraph, another 140 people will be born somewhere in the world. Where do the 6.5 billion people live? More than half of them live in Asia. In fact, over 2 billion are located in just two countries—China and India. The world's third most populous country is the United States, which has over 300 million people.

Population Growth

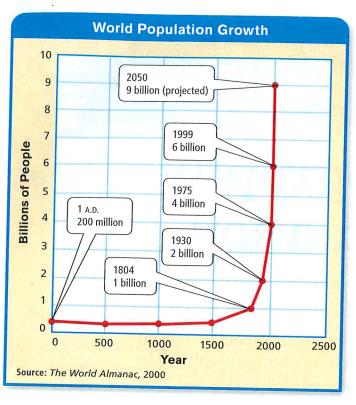
V KEY QUESTION What challenges does rapid population growth cause?

Geographers use the term **population** to mean the total number of people who live in a specified area. The population of the world today is more than 6 billion. It did not reach one billion until about 1804. Yet, over the last 200 years, the number has jumped by some 5 billion. What factors are responsible? The most important factors were increases in food production, discoveries in medical science, and improvements in sanitation. As a result, more babies survived and people lived longer, healthier lives.

Shanghai, China China's largest city is

home to more than 12 million people.





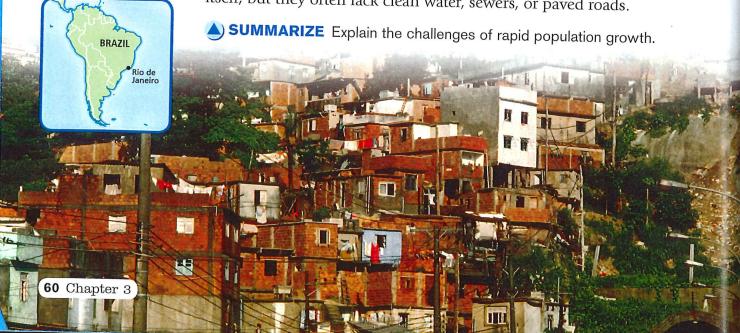
Measuring Growth Geographers measure population growth by figuring out how many people have been born and how many have died, how many have moved into and how many have moved out of a specific area. The birth rate measures the number of births per 1,000 people per year. The death rate measures the number of deaths per 1,000 people per year. To find out the rate of natural increase, the death rate is subtracted from the birth rate. This is the population growth that results from natural processes of birth and death.

Today, in most of Asia, Africa, and South America, the rate of natural increase is very high. Farming is a major way of life in these regions, and families need many children to help with the farm work. In

most countries of Europe and North America, and also in Japan, the population growth rate is much lower. In these countries, most people live in cities and have few children, making their rate of natural increase much lower than in regions with a higher rural population.

Growth Challenges The expanding population creates serious challenges. The Earth's resources are limited and not evenly distributed throughout the world. In many countries, it is difficult just to provide the basic needs such as food, clean water, and housing. Many people move from rural areas to cities to make a better life for themselves and their families. If they cannot find housing, they often build houses on the outskirts of cities with whatever materials they can find. Some of these squatter settlements become very large, even as large as the city itself, but they often lack clean water, sewers, or paved roads.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
These houses are part of
squatter settlements on the
outskirts of the main city.



Population Distribution and Density

XEY QUESTION What are the factors that influence where people choose to live?

As you read earlier, people are not distributed equally around the world. Where they choose to live is partly affected by climate, elevation, and resources such as fertile soil and fresh water. Today, the largest populations are found in what are called **habitable lands**.

Population Distribution Only a small portion of the Earth's surface is suitable for humans to settle. Almost 75 percent of the Earth's surface is water. In addition, between 35 and 40 percent of the Earth's land is too hot, too cold, too wet, or too dry for large-scale settlement. Most people live in the Northern Hemisphere, between 20° North and 60° North latitude. Fewer people live in the Southern Hemisphere because there is less land available. The edges of continents are more heavily populated than interior lands. Many people choose to live in coastal lands and in river valleys because these locations offer people opportunities to earn a living. About two-thirds of the world's population is found within 300 miles of ocean waters.

COMPARING Urban Populations

More than 400 cities have populations of one million or more. Many cities in Africa and Asia, such as Lagos, Nigeria, and Mumbai, India, are expected to grow rapidly in the 21st century.

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Top 7 Most Populous Cities	Population (in millions*)
Tokyo, Japan	34.45
Mexico City, Mexico	18.07
New York City, U.S.A.	17.85
São Paulo, Brazil	17.10
Mumbai, India	16.09
Kolkata, India	13.06
Shanghai, China	12.89

CRITICAL THINKING

Compare and Contrast What is the total population of the Indian cities listed? How does that compare with the population of Tokyo?





* Population shown is for an entire urban area, not just the city itself.

Source: The World Almanac and Book of Facts, 2006

CONNECT **to Math**

Population density is different from population distribution. Population distribution shows where people live. **Population density** shows on average how many people are living in a specific size area such as a square mile or square kilometer. The density number helps explain how crowded an area is.

To find the population density number, add up the total number of people living in an area and divide by the total amount of land they occupy. Some areas of Earth are very lightly populated and others are quite densely populated.



Activity

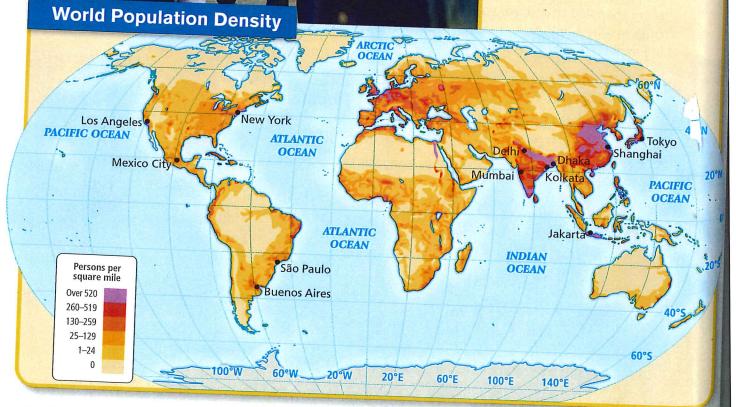
Calculating Population Density

Materials

- a calculator
- paper and pencil
- 1. Review the paragraph at left to see how population density is calculated.
- 2. Use the information below to calculate the population density for eight countries.
- After you have completed your calculations, create a bar graph showing the population densities of the eight nations.

Country	Area (km²)	Population			
Afghanistan	647,500	31,056,997			
Brazil	<mark>8,511,965</mark>	188,078,227			
Chad	1,284,000	9,944,200			
Finland .	338,145	5,231,372			
France .	547,030	60,876,136			
Iraq -	437,072	26,783,383			
Thailand	514,000	64,631,595			
United States	9,631,420	298,444,215			
Carry City City					

Source: CIA World Factbook, 2006



Rural vs. Urban Today, about half the world's population lives in **urban** areas, such as cities and their suburbs. This is a big change from a hundred years ago. Then, most people lived in **rural** areas, on farms and in small villages. Only about 14 percent lived in cities. By 2030, population experts believe that 60 percent of all people will live in urban areas. This process of development from small settlements to large ones is called **urbanization**.

Population Density Geographers who study the characteristics of human populations are called **demographers**. They use population density to find out how heavily populated an area is. One of the most densely populated countries is Bangladesh in South Asia, with over 1,900 people per square mile. The average population density of the entire planet is 113 people per square mile.

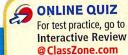
Statistics can be deceiving because the number is an average. Some areas of a country might be lightly populated, while others are heavily populated. In the United States, the population density is about 80 people per square mile. However, New Jersey has 1,134 people per square mile and Alaska has only 1.1 people per square mile.

UNDERSTAND CAUSES Identify the factors that influence where people choose to live.

Section



Assessment



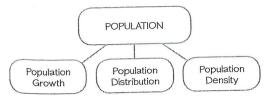
TERMS & NAMES

- 1. Explain the importance of
 - birth rate
 - · death rate
 - population density
 - urbanization

USE YOUR READING NOTES

2. Compare and Contrast Use your completed web diagram to answer the following question:

How is population density different from population distribution?



KEY IDEAS

- 3. What are three factors that have caused the world's population to grow so rapidly?
- 4. What is urbanization?
- 5. How is population density determined?

CRITICAL THINKING

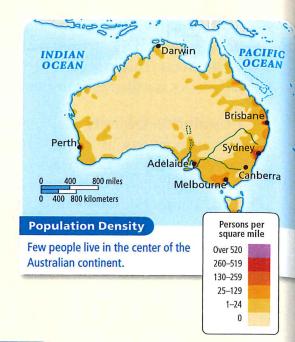
- **6. Make Inferences** Why are people unevenly distributed on the Earth's surface?
- 7. Compare and Contrast Why do some countries have much lower growth rates than others?
- 8. CONNECT to Today What do you think are the major problems that the world faces as the population continues to grow?
- 9. MATH Create a Population Density Table Use the Internet to find statistics for population and an average population density for each continent. Create a table and a bar chart showing these statistics. Continents should be listed in order from highest density to lowest density.

COMPARING Population Distribution

Population density is an average figure for a specific area. However, it does not account for the distribution of population in an area. Notice in these two examples how the pattern of population density varies even within a country.

Australia

Australia is ranked 54th in the world for total population, but 191st in population density. This is because Australia has a great deal of land but a small population. It has a lot of open space sometimes called the Outback, shown below. The heaviest population is found in the coastal cities.





Australia's wide open spaces makes cattle ranching one of the biggest businesses.

Transportation

A lone vehicle travels a dusty Outback road.

