



my homeschool

People and Places:

Population
Geography

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Welcome to Students

Knowing where people live is a first step in understanding how they live as they do. Earth supports 7.7 billion people, spread across 195 countries. Some live in very dense cities, others in sparsely populated desert areas, and many others in regions and towns in between. You will have read books and seen movies that tell stories of people's lives, all of which are set within the backdrop of a place. Just as people shape the place they live in, the conditions and aspects of the place shape the way people live. A city dweller may reside in an apartment within a building that is many storeys high which is very different to a sprawling country estate, an alpine cottage, or traditional huts in desert regions. Seeing where people live and how they live is an important part of geography and it is the focus of your geography for this term through this unit: *People and Places: Population Geography*.

There are two geography lessons each week and this resource will run over one term. In the first lesson of each week you will read through the text provided and the Complementary Links on our MyHomeschool Moodle website. Use this lesson to learn more about the issues. Read the text. Explore the links. Try to understand and appreciate the themes and information given. In the second lesson of each week you are given notebooking topics to prepare a written narration on. Your parent will guide you as to how many topics they want you to complete and how long your narration should be. Include diagrams, graphs or maps to complement your narration.

Some of the information you learn about will challenge you. For me, some of the stories, facts and figures about asylum seekers and the impact of migration on so many individual families brought tears to my eyes. I have travelled overseas and I have seen the conditions in which some people live and I know I am fortunate and blessed to live where and how I live, knowing the hardships involved in the lives of so many others. You might like to reflect on what life might look like for you if you lived somewhere different: what might it be like to be a teenager in a country in Africa, in China, or somewhere in South America?

The sheer numbers of people you will learn about can be hard to visualise: Can you visualise what 7.7 billion people looks like? Can you imagine what it looks like to see 130 million Chinese workers make the train ride home to see their families once a year? Behind each of these numbers is an individual person, a person connected to their family and friends, a person wanting to be safe in their home. If you are tempted to gloss over the figures or if you are tempted to question why it is important to understand more about population geography, then I suggest that you see beyond the numbers, see beyond the sheer scale and the planning and policy implications; see beyond them and look at the individual people these figures represent. People like you, people like me, people in families wanting to make good choices about where and how they live, choices which ultimately will support them in living a good life. These are families and individuals who may live a very different life to the one that you lead due in part to their own personal geography and this unit is an opportunity to learn more about the personal geography of millions of others, about these people and their places.

Jo Lloyd

Topic 1 – Where In The World Do People Live?

Lesson 1: Population Issues

In 2019 it was estimated that the world's population reached 7.7 billion. The term **population** refers to the number of people that live within a specific area, such as a city, town or a continent, so when we refer to the world's population, it is simply the number of people living in the world. Understanding where these billions of people live, why they might live where they do, and the issues surrounding urbanisation and migration across the globe as well as internal migration within certain countries is the focus for this resource. It is a resource designed to guide you thinking through some of the issues to do with population geography. This lesson examines where people live in the world, and in the weeks ahead you will consider some of the trends in migration, looking specifically at Australia, the United States and China. You will learn just how many people across the world are on the move and how this is changing our cities and how planners are trying to prepare for a future that may look dramatically different to our past. When millions of people are located within a geographical area there are challenges to address to ensure this is efficient and effective and resources shared equitably.

Knowing that the world's population is 7.7 billion shows just how many people the earth is supporting. However, geographers also have to consider the population distribution. Population distribution refers to how people are spread out over a defined area. In terms of the population distribution of the world then, we need to consider where these billions of people are living, how they are spread out over the world.

Data shows that the continent of Asia is home to 60% of the world's population and hosts the top two most populated countries in the world: China and India. Both China and India currently have populations of approximately 1.38 billion and together, these two countries hold 37% of the world's population. Three of the fastest growing cities are located within China and India. In China, Suzhou and Guangzhou are two of the fastest growing cities, while in India, it is the city of Surat. The United States of America is the third most populated nation, with some 325 million people living within its borders. Australia is ranked as the 55th most populated country in the world, with a population of 25 million people.

Population Density

When examining where people live in the world, it is also a question of looking at how they live, meaning how closely together people physically live to one another. Geographers look at this to assess how many people live within a given area. It is called population density. Population density is the number of people living within a square kilometre. If there are a high number of people living per square kilometre within a specific area it is said to be densely populated whereas if there are a low number of people within each square kilometre it is said to be sparsely populated.

On earth, China and India are the two most populated countries, but they also have a high population density. Japan and Western Europe are two other regions on earth that have a high population density. There is a high number of people living within a relatively smaller geographical area. These geographical areas can sustain such a large population because the climate is moderate, so it is good

for people and for growing crops with good soil also. There are sufficient natural resources, so the majority of the population has access to a guaranteed quality water supply and food. The topography of these places is such that there is adequate flat lands or gentle slopes to make it easier to construct buildings and transport and communications networks. This helps to encourage industry and therefore there are jobs to support the high population. These factors can attract more people to live in these areas and so continues to encourage a high population density.

Compare this with our polar regions, the Amazon basin, the Sahara Desert or the Himalayas. Due to challenging geographical factors these are all places that have a low population density. These are places with an extreme climate (either very cold or very hot), poor soils (making it difficult or impossible to grow crops), few natural resources (so limited water supply and food), and steep slopes making it difficult to construct buildings and transport and communication networks. That is not to say that no one lives in these areas, we know that people do; however, they have a low population density, with few people living within a larger geographical area.

Complementary Links

Please check the Complementary Links included online to consider more issues of world population.

Lesson 2: Notebooking Population Issues

- ❖ Describe where the world's population lives.
- ❖ Write definitions for the following terms:
 - Population
 - Population distribution
 - Population density, including differentiating between dense and sparse population density
- ❖ Prepare a world population density map.
Use a blank world map and the maps (provided within the Complementary Links) to find the information you require to complete this mapping exercise.