

Population Geography

Absent Work #6

All questions require at least
THREE sentences on own paper.

PLACES & TERMS

birthrate the number of live births per thousand population

fertility rate the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime

mortality rate also called the death rate, the number of deaths per thousand

infant mortality rate the number of deaths among infants under age one per thousand live births

rate of natural increase the rate at which the population is growing

population pyramid graphic device that shows gender and age distribution of population

push-pull factors reasons why people migrate

population density average number of people who live in a measurable area

carrying capacity the number of organisms a piece of land can support

Worldwide Population Growth

What is mortality rate?

To understand population growth, geographers use several different statistics. One is the **birthrate**. It is the number of live births per thousand people in the population. Another way to study population is to look at the fertility rate. The **fertility rate** shows the average number of children an average woman might have in her lifetime.

The **mortality rate** is also called the death rate. It is the number of deaths per thousand people in the population. Geographers also look at **infant mortality rates**. The infant mortality rate shows the number of deaths among infants under age one per thousand live births.

To find the rate at which population is growing, subtract the mortality rate from the birthrate. The

result is the **rate of natural increase** or population growth.

1. How is population growth figured?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

POPULATION PYRAMID

What are population pyramids?

Another way to analyze population is to use a **population pyramid**. This is a type of graph that shows sex and age distribution of a population. A population pyramid allows geographers to see how such events as wars, famines, and epidemics affect the population of a country or region.

2. Why do geographers use population pyramids?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

Population Distribution HABITABLE LANDS

Where on the earth do most people live?

The billions of people in the world are not spread equally across the earth. Almost 90 percent of the world's population lives in the Northern Hemisphere. One out of every two people lives in either East Asia or South Asia.

Factors such as climate, altitude, and access to water influence where people choose to live. Almost two-thirds of the world's population lives in the zone between 20° N and 60° N. The lands in this zone have the most suitable climate and vegetation for human settlement. The lands are warm enough and wet enough to make agriculture possible. Large populations are also found along seacoasts and river valleys.

3. What factors affect where people live?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

URBAN-RURAL MIX/MIGRATION

Why do people move?

More than half of the world's population lives in rural areas. More people are moving into cities. Cities with populations of more than one million people are growing fastest. Twenty-six giant cities are home to a total of more than 250 million people.

The movement of people from one location to another also changes the distribution of population. Reasons for migrating are sometimes called push-pull factors. Push factors are when people feel pushed out of a region. Push factors might include a natural disaster. Pull factors encourage people to go to another land. Countries with lots of jobs and high salaries attract people.

4. How do push-pull factors affect migration?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

Population Density

What is population density?

To understand how heavily populated an area is, geographers use a figure called population density. This figure is the average number of people who live in a measurable area such as a square mile. The number is found by dividing the number of people in an area by the amount of land they occupy. New Jersey has a density of 1,098 people per square mile. The United States averages out to 70.3 persons per square mile.

Population density numbers maybe misleading. The population is not distributed evenly across the land. Certain areas may be densely populated, while others are thinly populated.

5. How is population density figured?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

CARRYING CAPACITY

How many people can the land support?

Carrying capacity is the number of animals or humans a piece of land can support. An area with fertile land may be able to support many people. A land of poor quality or with little land available for cultivation can only support a few people.

The level of technology available to a group living on the land may affect carrying capacity. Improved farming practices may increase the carrying capacity of land.

6. What is carrying capacity?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.