Why does population change? | Geography | Years 5 & 6 | Autumn Term 2026-27

National Curriculum – Geography

Locational knowledge

- Locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities.
- Identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime / Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night).

Human and physical geography

- Describe and understand key aspects of:
  - physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle.
  - human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital / computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.

Lines of enquiry

What are the reasons for population growth?

- Increase in birth rate.
- Increase in immigration.
- A stable job and income.
- Decrease in death rates.
- Consistent access to food.
- Clean, spacious housing.

What are the reasons for population decline?

- Decrease in birth rate.
- Increase in death rate.
- Increase in emigration.
- Little or no access to clean water.
- Little access to hospitals and medicine.
- War and conflict.
- Natural disasters.
- Spread of disease.

What are the pull factors and pull factors affecting population density?

Push factors	Pull factors
•To escape conflict or war.	•To find a good job.
•To escape natural disasters.	•To be closer to family and friends.
•Poverty (little money).	•Good access to healthcare.
•Little access to healthcare.	•Safety (lack of war).
•Few jobs.	•Low crime rate.
•High crime rate.	•Access to good education.
•Little food, crop failure.	•Pleasant climate and landscape.
•Harsh climate.	•To find a better quality of life.
•Little or no access to education.	•Respect for different cultures, religions and beliefs.
•Unhappy.	

Vocabulary

Population: the number of people living in a particular place.
Densely populated: an area that contains many people relative to its size.
Sparsely populated: an area that has few people relative to its size.
Population distribution: how people are spread across a specific area.
Birth rate: the average number of babies born per 1000 people every year.
Death rate: the average number of people dying per 1000 people every year.
Push factors: negative factors that push people away from a place.
Pull factors: the positive factors that pull people towards a place.
Migration: the act of people moving from one place to another.
Refugee: people forced to leave their country to find safety because of conflict, violence or war.
Region: a specific areas that has common features.
Climate change: a shift in the Earth's usual weather conditions over many years.

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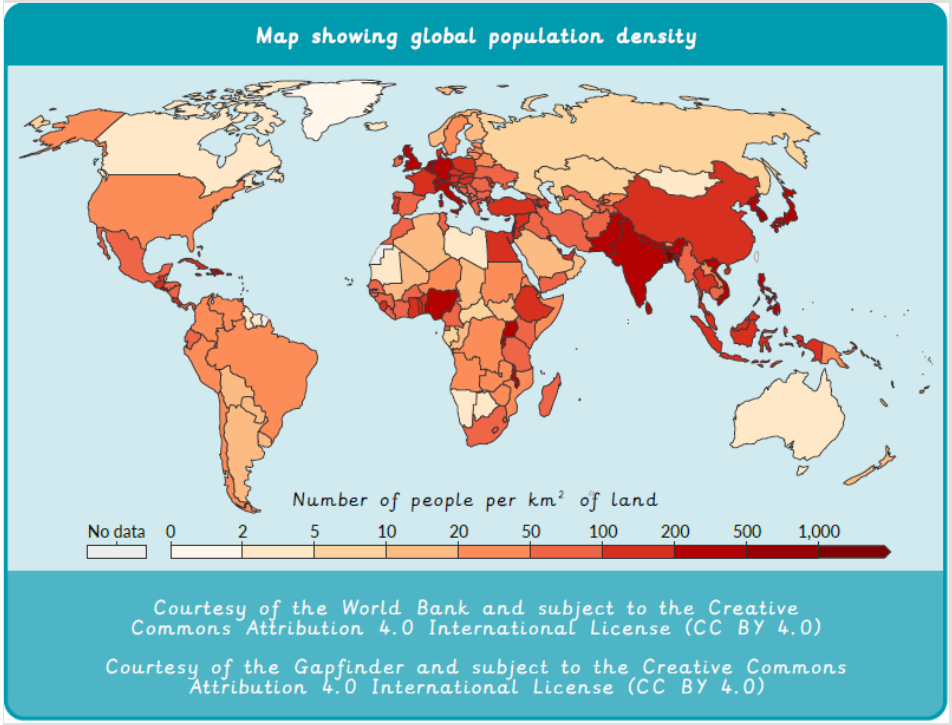
Geographical skills and knowledge

A Map showing global population density:



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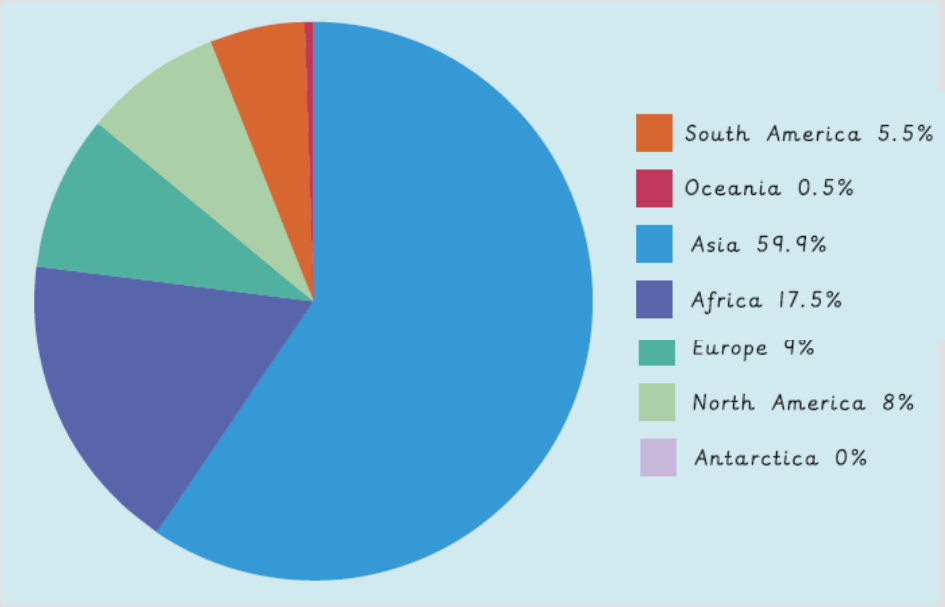
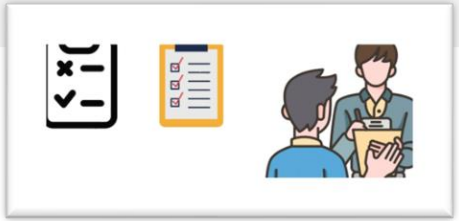
Courtesy of the Gapfinder and subject to the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0)

Global population distribution:



Asia is the most populated continent, whilst Oceania is the least populated continent.

Qualitative data - **non-numeric information**, such as interviews, diaries, answers to open-ended survey questions, audio-visual recordings and images. A **Likert Scale** will be used to collect information about people views of a densely populated and sparsely populated area.



Quantitative data - **data that is described in numbers**. This type of data can be counted or measured. Tally charts will be used to collect information about traffic and litter in a densely populated and sparsely populated area.

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Key Learning: To understand and explain why population changes over time.

1	**How is the global population changing?** Discuss global population distribution and growth, identifying which countries are densely and sparsely populated. Describe why some environments are more appealing to live in than others.
2	**What are birth and death rates?** Learn what birth and death rates are and discuss the factors that influence them. Use a graph to identify the natural increase of a population, applying learning to give reasons for why this is the case.
3	**Why do people migrate?** Understand that migration can be voluntary and involuntary and that it is influenced by external factors (push and pull) that are environmental, economic and social. Address difference between migration through choice and refugees who move involuntarily due to the need to flee danger in their home country.
4	**How is climate change impacting the population?** Understand the impact climate change can have on the global population. Discuss why climate change is happening and what can be done to help fight it.
5	**How is population impacting our environment? (Data collection - Fieldwork)** Use a range of data collection methods (tally chart to measure traffic – quantitative, and Likert scale to collect opinions – qualitative) to compare the environmental quality of two areas in their locality (Clipston vs Leicester) with a focus on traffic and litter.
6	**How is population impacting our environment? (Findings – Fieldwork)** Collate data collected from their fieldwork, analyse and compare the two different data sets and write a report on their findings including creation of a digital map and making suggestions to improve an area.