



In geography, **population** refers to the people, or groups of people, that live in the same geographical area. For instance, the world population (as of 1/1/2018) is estimated to be 7,594 billion people.

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Population



around them.

Human geography is a branch of the social sciences that studies how humans are impacted and impact the world

Geography can be divided into two branches: **physical geography** and **human geography**.

Populations and Migration

Gathering Data and Problems Getting it.

We learn about populations by gathering data. One of the main ways to gather data is through the use of a **census**. A census is a survey given out to every household (once every ten years in the UK) which asks questions regarding age, occupation and religion. This sounds easy enough but gathering data can be really difficult.

- Some of the problems with collecting population data:
- The bigger the country, the more expensive it is to collect and collate data and the more logistical problems they face
 - Special data collection methods may be needed for indigenous groups where numerous dialects are spoken
 - Large unplanned shanty towns make data collection hard
 - Remote regions and difficult to get to, places may get missed
 - People move about, so may get missed or double counted
 - In China, some families hide their children at census time
 - One country's census may include data for another
 - Difficult to count a population growing very fast
 - Ethnic groups may be discriminated against in a census or afraid to admit their ethnic status
 - Figures are inaccurate because many citizens work abroad or are nomadic.
 - Local officials inflate the figures for political reasons
 - Figures based on estimates are often wildly inaccurate
 - Civil war and the resulting population movement hamper data collection.
 - Data is collected in different ways, so difficult to compare

However, even with imperfect data, clear patterns and trends can still emerge.

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- be for a few weeks or even several years.
- Temporary migration:** Migration for a limited period, this might only be for a few weeks or the harvesting season.
- Seasonal migration:** Migration just for a particular season e.g. the ski season or the harvesting season.
- (towns and cities).
- Rural-urban migration:** a type of internal migration. It is the movement of people from rural areas (the countryside) to urban areas.
- Refugee:** A person who has been forced to leave their home and their country.
- Population distribution:** The way in which people are spread across a given area.
- Population density:** The average number of people per square kilometre. It is a way of measuring population distribution.
- Physical geography:** Branch of natural science that deals with the study of processes and patterns in the natural environment.
- Permanent migration:** Migration with the intention of staying forever. than emigrants then it is experiencing net migration gain.
- Migration balance:** The difference between emigrants and immigrants. If a country has more emigrants than immigrants that it is experiencing net migration loss. If a country has more immigrants than emigrants then it is experiencing net migration gain.
- Over-population:** More people than a place's resources can sustain.
- Migration:** The movement from one location to another location.
- MEDC:** More Economically Developed Country, e.g. UK.
- LEDC:** Less Economically Developed Country, e.g. Ethiopia.
- Internal migration:** Moving between countries.
- Internal migration:** Moving within a country or area.
- Immigrant:** A migrant arriving in a new country.
- Emigrant:** A person who leaves a country to migrate to another.
- promotion.
- Economic migration:** Migration for work e.g. better salary or
- Communting:** Movement from home to workplace and vice versa.
- foreign country because their life is in danger in their home country.
- Asylum seeker:** Someone who is trying to get refugee (residency) in a

GLOSSARY

AFRICA CASE STUDY

Over-population: problem or myth?

Not all countries' populations are growing at the same rate. Some are growing very fast while others are declining. The world's population as a whole, though is continually growing. By the end of the 21st century, it is estimated to be 10 billion people, then it is expected to start declining. Many argue that our world is currently over-populated, others say that is a myth and it is just that resources are not evenly distributed.

Extracts taken from:

David Attenborough: trying to tackle famine with bags of flour is 'barmy' - Mark Tran, Wednesday 18 September 2013 <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/sep/18/david-attenborough-famine-population>

'Sending food aid to famine-stricken countries avoids the more fundamental problem of population growth, Sir David Attenborough has said, as he called for more debate about population control....

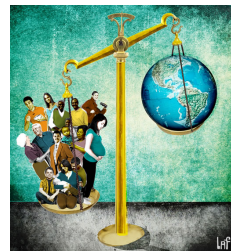
"What are all these famines in Ethiopia? What are they about?" he said. "They're about too many people for too little land. That's what it's about. And we are blinding ourselves. We say, get the United Nations to send them bags of flour. That's barmy."

'But Hannah Stoddart, Oxfam's senior policy adviser, said: "We can't look the other way while men, women and children starve in a famine; it is our moral duty to help. David Attenborough is wrong – there is plenty of food

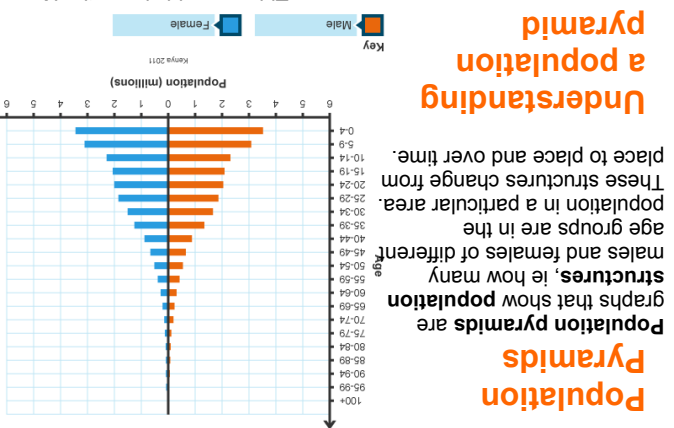


in the world to feed everyone if we share what we have more fairly. Also, we could easily boost production by reversing decades of under-investment in poor countries' agriculture.'

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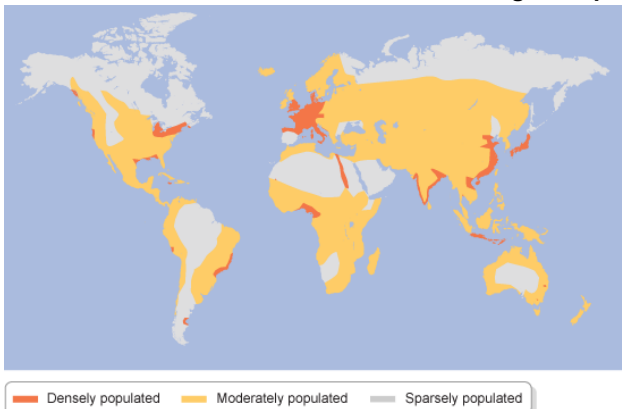
High birth rates may be due to:
 need for large families, e.g. to work in rural areas
 lack of family planning
 to guard against a high level of infant mortality
 Falling death rates may be due to:
 increasing wealth
 better farming techniques
 High levels of immigration may also distort the population structure, e.g. lots of young, male workers arriving in a country.



Distribution

Population distribution means the pattern of where people live in the world.

People are not distributed around the world evenly.
 Sparsely populated places (contain few people) tend to be difficult places to live and usually have hostile environments e.g. Antarctica.
 Densely populated places (contain many people) tend to be much more habitable environments e.g. Europe.



Map showing population density around the world. Source:BBC, Bitesize

The measure of distribution is density. It is usually calculated as number of people per square kilometre. In the UK it is approximately 246 people/sq km, but this varies between different areas of the country.

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another. People migrate for many different reasons.

These reasons can be classified as:

- economic** - moving to find work or follow a particular career path
- social** - moving somewhere for a better quality of life or to be closer to family or friends
- political** - moving to escape political persecution or war
- environmental** - include natural disasters such as flooding

Push and pull factors

Migration usually happens as a result of a combination of push/pull factors.

Push factors - forces that drive people away from a place

Pull factors - forces that draw people to a place

Push Factors

- Political instability
- Poverty
- Natural disasters
- Wars
- Unemployment
- Lack of opportunities
- Lack of services
- Lack of safety
- High crime

Pull Factors

- Employment
- Religious and political freedom
- Kinship ties
- Better quality of life
- Better services
- Better climate
- Safer. Less crime
- Lower risk from natural hazards

The earliest evidence of any human population is in Africa. From there, humanity spread around the globe – thrived in certain conditions and growing in number in those areas best suited to food production.

What makes populations change size?

- **Births** (no. of live births per 1,000 of the population, per year) e.g. availability of contraception and trends
- **Deaths** (no. of deaths per 1,000 of population, per year) e.g. war and disease
- **Migration** (the movement of people in and out of an area)

The difference between the birth and death rate in a place is called the **natural increase** as they are natural causes of population change. Migration, however, can have a huge and sometimes very sudden effect on the density of a population, both positively and/or negatively.

Migration may be:

- Involuntary** - Forced migration, often caused by persecution, development, or exploitation, such as the African slave trade.
- Reluctant** - Reluctant as individuals are not forced to move, but do so because of an unfavourable situation at their current location, such as the mass of Jews leaving Germany when Hitler came to power.
- Voluntary** - Is migration based on one's free will and initiative. The strongest factors influencing people to voluntarily move are the desire to live in a better home and employment opportunities but the reasons can be many and varied.

Sources

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