**The Arab and Islamic World: Human Characteristics**

The Arab League (formally, the League of Arab States) is a [regional organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional_organization) of [Arab countries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_world) in and around [North Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Africa), the [Horn of Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horn_of_Africa) and Arabia. The Islamic world consists of 57 countries. 22 countries of it are Arab countries. As of 2021, the population of the Islamic world is estimated to be around 1.9 billion people.

Approximately two thirds of Muslims live in the Islamic countries while the others live in non-Islamic countries or countries that are considered Muslim countries because most of the population is Muslims such as Eritrea and Ethiopia. Some other countries might be considered Muslim states even though they are not members of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Distribution and Density:**

Most of the population of the Arab and Islamic world are concentrated in Asia and Africa. Population distribution is different from one area to another. Some areas are highly populated, while other areas are not.

**Factors affecting population distribution:**

- Water resources - Landforms - Industrial cities - Agriculture

**Main Languages of the Arab and Islamic World:**

Bahasa language

4.4 %

Punjabi language

6.1 %

Turkish language

5.5 %

Bengali language

10 %

Arabic language

17.2 %

Javanese language

5.8 %

Hausa language

7.5 %

Urdu language

5.3 %

Persian language

3.8 %

**QUESTIONS:**

What is meant by population?

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**Human Population**

The human population is constantly changing. In this lesson, we will explore the factors that cause increases and decreases in the human population, including births, deaths, immigration, and emigration.

Take a minute and think about all of the different people you interact with in a given day. For most people, this would include family, friends, co-workers, and strangers. A **population** is often described as a group of individuals of the same species that inhabit the same area. Therefore, all of the people you encounter each day are part of your population.

On a larger scale, you can think of all humans on Earth as the human population. As of 2011, the human population exceeded seven billion people! Although the human population has been around this size for most of us for our entire lives, the population has not always been so large.

**Factors that increase population size**

There are two factors that result in an increase in the size of a population. First, there is **natality**, which is the number of individuals that are added to a population over a period of time due to reproduction. This term is often used to describe reproductive rates over a variety of time periods.

The term most commonly used when describing natality in the human population is 'birth rate'. **Birth rate** is the number of individuals born per 1,000 individuals per year. An example of birth rate would be if a population of 5,000 people resulted in the birth of 50 children in a year, which would yield a birth rate of ten individuals per 1,000 per year. Birth rate is often reported as a percentage of the population. In 2010, the birth rate in the United States was 1.38%, which is considerably lower than the birth rate in many developing countries. For example, in 2010, the birth rate in Ethiopia was 4.34%. Birth rates can vary a great deal by region and can have drastic effects on the overall human population.

The second factor that can cause a rise in a population is immigration. **Immigration** is the migration of an individual into a place. When an individual immigrates to a new location, they increase the population within that area. Immigration is a factor that can influence the size of a specific population of humans, but does not influence the overall human population.

For example, if an individual decides to move from London to New York, they would be immigrating to the United States and would therefore increase the population of the U.S. Their immigration would have no influence on the overall human population because no matter where they live, they are included in the size of the human population. The only way that immigration could influence the overall human population on Earth is if humans lived on a different planet and immigrated to Earth. In that scenario, the human population on Earth would increase.

**Factors that decrease population size**

Now that we have learned about the factors that increase population size, let's investigate the factors that have the opposite influence. The first factor that results in a decrease in the population size is mortality. **Mortality** is the number of individual deaths in a population over a period of time. In terms of the human population, mortality is often described as the **death rate**, which is the number of individuals that die per 1,000 individuals per year.

Death rates are often used to describe how many individuals die in specific age groups. For example, the death rate of infants is often an important statistic to investigate when looking at changes in the population. Similar to birth rates, the death rate is also often described as a percentage of the population. In 2010, the death rate for infants in the United States was 0.6%, while in Ethiopia the infant death rate was 7.1%.

The second factor that can decrease the size of a population is emigration. **Emigration** is the migration of an individual from a place. When an individual emigrates from a location, they decrease the population within that area. If you think back on the immigration example, with the person moving from London to New York, we said that the person was immigrating to the United States. Using this same example, the person would also be emigrating from England. Similar to immigration, emigration also does not have an influence on the overall human population on Earth because people are not leaving Earth to move to a new planet.