

Geography

Our world

Learning objectives

- Students learn about population density in different countries.
- In the project stage, they prepare a presentation about the population density of a country.

Warmer

Put students into pairs and ask them to write down what they know about planet Earth. Ask them to think about how much of the Earth is covered by water, what its circumference is, and what the oceans are called.

After a few minutes, ask them to give their answers.

Ask students whether they agree with each other before confirming their answers (about 71% of the earth is covered in water; the circumference of the Earth is 40,075 kilometres or 24,902 miles; the oceans are – in size order from the largest to the smallest – the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Indian, the Southern (or the Antarctic) and the Arctic).

Alternatively, if your class has internet access, ask students to check their ideas online. Then invite different students to report back their findings to the class.

- 1 Books closed. Write questions 1–3 from exercise 1 on the board. Put students into new pairs and ask them to discuss the questions.

Invite the pairs to share their ideas with the rest of the class. They then read part A of the text and check their answers. Invite different students to answer each question.

Mixed ability

To provide additional support for weaker students, you could provide maps to help them with question 4. Stronger students should be able to do this unaided.

Answers

- 1 over seven billion 2 195 3 6,000
4 Africa, Europe, Oceania, North America, South America, Antarctica

- 2 Divide the class into small groups. Tell them that this is a competition and that they have to write down as many countries as they can for each continent (excluding Antarctica) in three minutes. Tell them to write the names of the continents in their notebooks and write lists of countries under each heading. Write the continents as headings on the board as they are working.

Stop them after three minutes and ask them to exchange their lists with another group. Invite a student from each group to read out the list in front of them.

Write the countries on the board for them to check spelling. Award one point for each country that is correctly spelled, and a bonus point if it is in the correct continent list. Tell them to add up the points to find the winning team.

- 3 Ask 'What percentage of the world is Asian?' and encourage students to guess before checking their answers by reading the population fact in the box.

Students then read the sentence halves and predict the answers in pairs before reading the text on page 51. Tell them to complete the exercise individually before checking answers as a class. Remind them not to worry about any unknown words at this point, and that one person represents one percent of the world's population. Ask students which fact they find most surprising.

Write the key words on the board, i.e. *polluted* and *population*. Put students into mixed-ability groups to find the words in the text, work out what they mean, and write a definition for each one. Monitor and help as they are working.

Invite different pairs to read out their definitions for the rest of the class to guess the word. Then ask them to check their answers in the Key words box.

Find out whether there were any other words they didn't know and encourage them to work out the meaning from the context, e.g. *properly* (in a satisfactory way) and *candles* (a stick of wax with string going through it that you burn to produce light).

Fast finishers

Ask fast finishers to write three more sets of sentence halves using the remaining figures from the text. They then write them on the board and ask the rest of the class to match the sentences.


Answers

- 1 e 2 d 3 b 4 a 5 f 6 c

- 4 Ask students to read the population facts and discuss the question with their partner. Share ideas as a class. (If you have a multinational class, write the countries that your students are from on the board.)

Ask them to report back their ideas to the class and find out which students come from the most and least densely populated countries.

Alternatively, if your class has internet access, ask students to carry out an online search to find out about their country's population density.

- 5  1.29 Ask students which countries they think have the highest population density. Then tell them that they are going to listen to Tom and Tina discussing the countries and find out.

Play the first part of the recording. Allow students to compare their answers with a partner before checking as a class.

Audioscript

- Tina:** Welcome to Tina and Tom's three-minute revision podcast. Tonight's subject is geography and we're going to talk about population density.
- Tom:** Yes. Now, the population density of a country is the number of people per square kilometre.
- Tina:** And different countries have quite different population densities, don't they?
- Tom:** That's right. Australia, for example, has got a very low population density – just three point one people per square kilometre.
- Tina:** Brazil has a higher population density than that – around 24 people per square kilometre, and India's population density is 368 people per square kilometre.
- Tom:** And how does that compare to countries in Europe?
- Tina:** Well, most countries in Europe have quite high population densities. The UK, for example, has a population density of 255 per square kilometre, and in the Netherlands, which has one of the highest population densities in the world, it's 409 people per square kilometre!
- Tom:** Wow!


Extension activity

Ask students to find out which countries in the world are the most and least densely populated. Ask them to work in small groups to discuss this and give reasons for their answers.

They can refer to reference books or use the internet. Feed back as a class.

Answer

From highest to lowest population density: The Netherlands, India, the UK, Brazil, Australia

- 6**  **1.30** Ask students what they know about the landscape and geography of Australia. Tell them to read the sentences and decide in pairs whether they are correct or incorrect. Invite different students to share their ideas but do not confirm their answers at this point. Play the second part of Tom and Tina's podcast so they can check their ideas. Allow them to compare their answers with a partner before checking as a class.

Audioscript

- Tina:** So, now we're going to look at one country, Australia, in a bit more detail. Australia is a really big country – the sixth largest country in the world, in fact. Twice as big as India. But, as we said earlier, it's got a very low population density. Why is that?
- Tom:** Well, the weather and geography of Australia make it hard to live in some areas of the country.
- Tina:** Yes. In parts of Australia – mainly the Northern Territory and South Australia – the climate is hot and dry. It isn't an easy or comfortable place to live.

- Tom:** Yes. And in the middle of the country, there aren't many rivers so it's impossible to grow food in these areas.
- Tina:** In fact, if you look at a map of Australia, you can see that all the big cities, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane are on the coast.
- Tom:** In fact, 85% of Australians live in urban areas. And all these urban areas are near the coast.
- Tina:** In these cities the population density is high. For example, the most crowded city in Australia is Sydney in the south-east. In cities like Sydney, the population density is about 400 people per square kilometre.
- Tom:** This is still a low population density for a city, if you look at the rest of the world – for example, New York has a population density of over 10,000!
- Tina:** So, basically, Australia isn't a crowded country, even in the urban areas.
- Tom:** That's right. OK. Now we're going to ...

Answers

- 1 Incorrect. Australia is the sixth largest country in the world.
- 2 Correct
- 3 Incorrect. There aren't many rivers in the middle of the country.
- 4 Incorrect. 85% of Australians live in urban areas. 5 Correct

Cooler

Put students into small groups and tell them that they are going to do a quiz. Call out some facts from the text on page 51 and ask students to write down the corresponding figures. For example, 'What percentage of people in the world are aged 5 to 24?' (36%). Ask students to exchange their answers with another group. Check answers by repeating the facts and asking the class to call out the answers. Award one point for each correct answer to find the winning group(s).

Project

Tell students that they are going to find out more about a country and its population density. Ask each student to choose a country they know very little about. Put students into pairs to investigate the two countries they have chosen. Ask them to make notes on the population, area, and population density. Tell them to use the internet to find a map of the country showing the most densely-populated areas. Ask them to find out why some areas are more populated than other areas (e.g. because of industry). Students then write about their findings individually for the country they have chosen. Tell students to practise their presentations with a partner. They could use PowerPoint, and include maps and pictures. Invite pairs to present their countries. Ask the class to listen carefully to find out which countries have the highest and lowest population density.