

## Geography

1 Work with a partner. Look at the photos and discuss the questions.

- 1 What can you see in the photos?
- 2 Where do you think the places are?
- 3 Where do you think there are more people?

2 Quickly read the text. What is the difference between population distribution and population density?



# Population distribution and population density around the world

**T**he current population of the world is 7.125 billion. So where are all the people? Which countries have got the most people and which have got the least?

**Population distribution** is how many people are in a particular area. Some parts of the planet have got a lot of people, and others haven't. For example, there are more than five times the amount of people in Japan than there are in Australia. In geography, we study local, regional, national and global population distribution.



**Population density** is the average number of people per square kilometre. It tells us if an area has got a lot of people or not. To calculate the population density of a place, we divide the population by the size of the place.

**Population density = total population ÷ area of land in km<sup>2</sup>**



For example, Australia's population of 23.83 million, divided by the land area of 7,682,300 square kilometres gives a population density of 3.2 people per km<sup>2</sup>.

In a small country with a lot of people, the population density is higher than in a big country with a lot of people. We can calculate the population density of a city, a region or a country.

The map below shows the population density in different parts of the world. Macau has got the highest population density with 18,534 people per km<sup>2</sup>. Greenland has got the lowest, with 0.026 people per km<sup>2</sup>.

It's important to remember that the population density of a country isn't the same as its level of economic development. For example, the Netherlands and Rwanda are both densely populated, but Rwanda is a LEDC (Less economically-developed country) and the Netherlands is a MEDC (More economically-developed country).

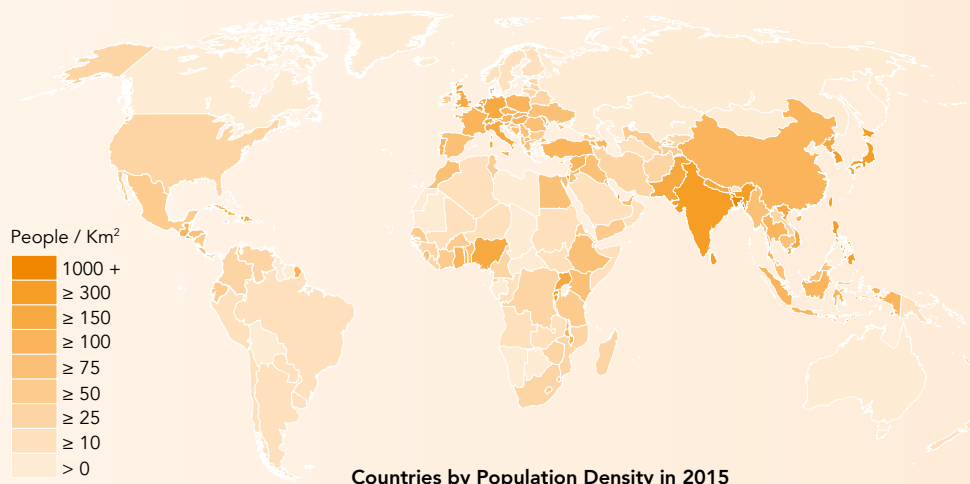
**So, why have some areas got a high population density?**

### Factors that attract population

- a temperate climate
- flat, fertile land
- natural resources

### Factors that discourage population

- an extreme climate
- mountainous land
- thick forests and vegetation



### 3 Read the text again. Decide if the statements are True (T) or False (F).

- 1 Population distribution tells us where people live. T / F
- 2 There are more people in Australia than in Japan. T / F
- 3 Australia has got a high population density. T / F
- 4 In an area of high population density, there are a lot of people in a small area. T / F
- 5 Most places with a high population density are in LEDCs. T / F
- 6 More people live in areas with a temperate climate and fertile land. T / F

### 4 What do these numbers in the text refer to?

- 1 7,682,300 .....
- 2 23.83 million .....
- 3 0.026 .....
- 4 7.125 billion .....
- 5 18,534 .....

### 5 Work with a partner and discuss the questions.

- 1 Can you see the place where you live on the map? Has it got a high or low population density?
- 2 Where do most people in your country live?
- 3 Which parts of your country have a high and low population density?

#### ?? DID YOU KNOW?

Greenland is the country with the lowest population density in the world. Around 57,000 people live in a total area of 2,166,086 km<sup>2</sup>. More than 16,000 of them are in the capital city, Nuuk. Greenland is the world's largest island, consisting of mountains, rock and ice. Only 1 km<sup>2</sup> of the country is forest.

### PROJECT

- 1 Work in groups. Choose one of these countries:

Argentina • Bangladesh • Belgium  
Canada • China • Saudi Arabia

- 2 Find out information about the country and find some photos.

What is the population of the country?  
What is the land area?  
What is the population density?  
Where are most people? Why?

- 3 In your group, prepare a presentation of your country for the class.

### VOCABULARY FOCUS

**area [n]:** a part of a city, town, country, etc.

**current [adj]:** happening now

**discourage [v]:** to try to prevent something from happening

**divided [adj]:** separated

**economic development [n]:** the level of business activity

**extreme [adj]:** very great

**fertile [adj]:** producing good crops or plants

**forest [n]:** a large area covered by trees

**high [adj]:** large in amount

**least [n]:** the smallest in number or amount

**less economically-developed country [n]:** a country with a weaker economy

**local [adj]:** related to the area you live in

**low [adj]:** small in amount

**more economically-developed country [n]:** a country with a stronger economy

**most [adv]:** the biggest in number or amount

**natural resource [n]:** valuable substances such as wood and oil that exist in a place

**regional [adj]:** related to the region you live in

**temperate [adj]:** never very hot or very cold