

## Demography

What factors influence where people settle?

Is the world's population growing too fast?

Important vocabulary

Demography

Urbanization

Settlement patterns

Population density

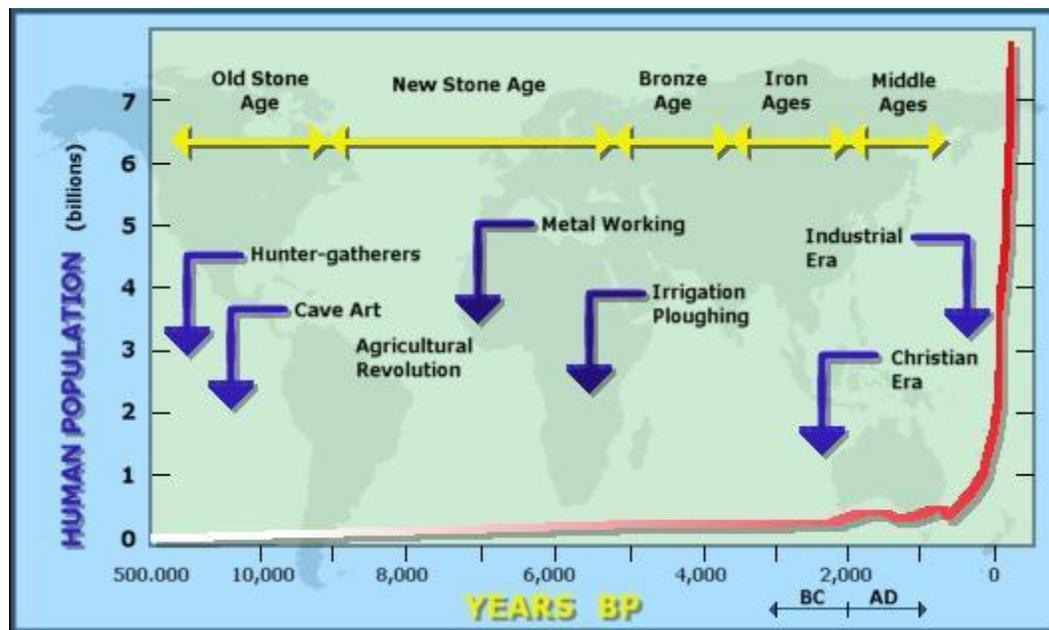
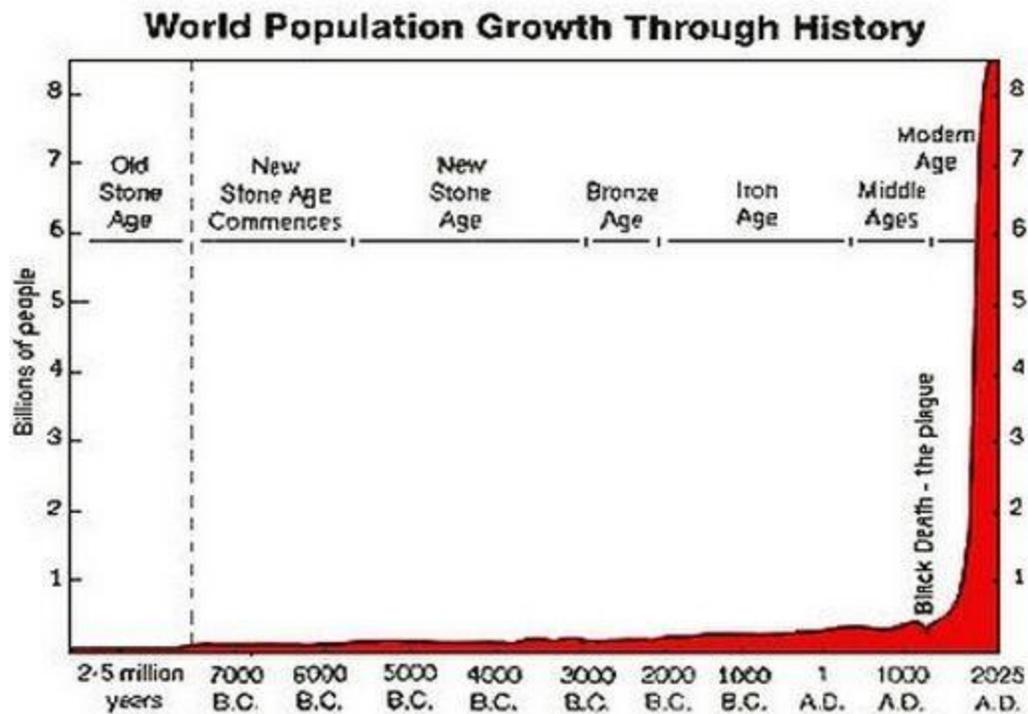
Population pyramid

Shanty towns

Carrying Capacity

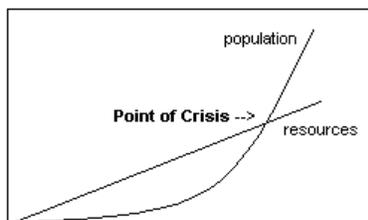
## A Brief History of Human Settlement

- I. First Human Settlements
  - a. Most anthropologists believe humans first appeared in the Great Rift Valley in East Africa hundreds of thousands of years ago.
    - i. From there, they spread to the Middle East, Asia, Europe, the Americas and Oceania
  - b. Neolithic Revolution (Agricultural Revolution)
    - i. In Mesopotamia, people went from hunter-gatherers and nomads to domestication
      1. Occurred between 12,000 and 8,000 B.C. (BCE)
      2. Population grew relatively quickly



- II. The Emergence of Urban Populations
  - a. In some areas, agriculture became especially successful
    - i. Largely in the river valleys of:

1. Egypt
  2. Mesopotamia
  3. India
  4. China
- ii. Had fertile soil from annual flooding
  - iii. Abundant harvests
  - iv. First cities arose in these areas
  - v. People were able to grow surplus food to feed a non-farming urban population
  - vi. Specialization occurred:
    1. Priests
    2. Scribes
    3. Architects
    4. Farmers
    5. Soldiers
    6. traders
    7. Blacksmiths, etc.
  - vii. Urban populations increased in size, and a need for government developed
- III. Industrialization and Urbanization
- a. Industrial Revolution
    - i. 1700s
    - ii. Began in England and Europe (mainly Germany)
    - iii. Greatly increased the speed of urbanization
    - iv. People moved from rural to urban areas for more opportunity in the factories
    - v. Towns and cities grew up around these factories
    - vi. Cities also grew up at points where goods were exchanged or transferred
      1. Seacoasts/port
      2. Where different railroad lines crossed
- IV. Thomas Malthus
- a. Carrying Capacity
    - i. Resources: linear
    - ii. Population growth: exponential
  - b. Population will outgrow resources
    - i. People reduced to “rats in a cage” type behavior

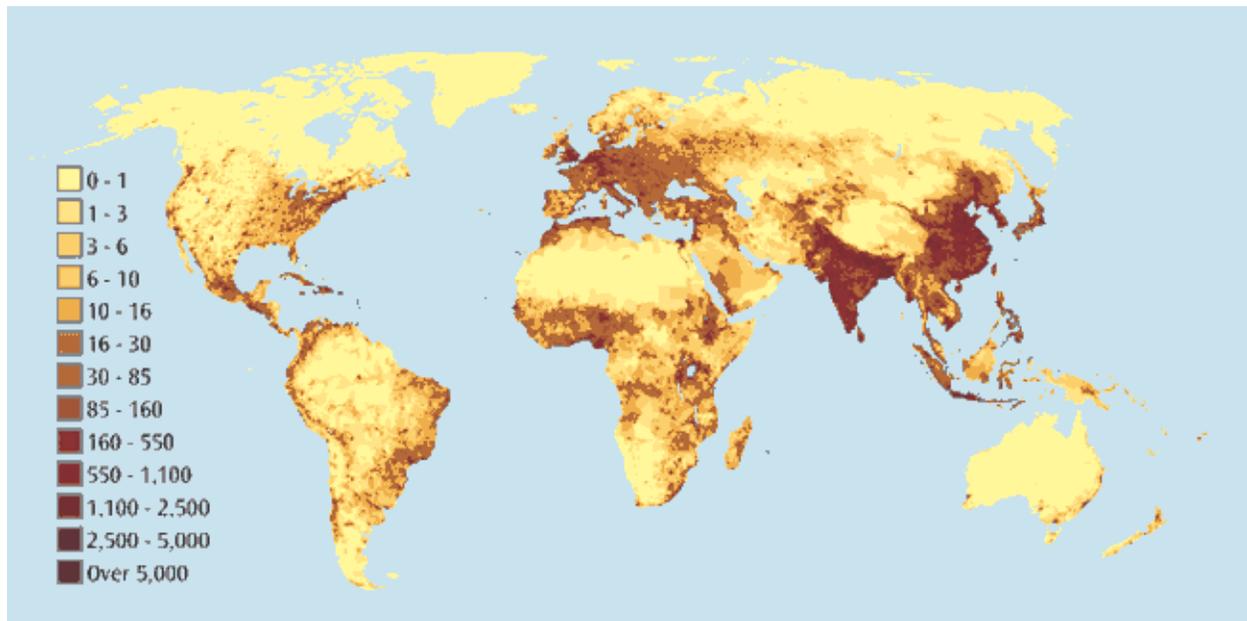


**Malthus' Basic Theory**

## Factors Influencing Where People Settle

What explains the distribution of people around the world?

- Both physical and human factors affect where people settle.
- 75% of the world's people live on less than 5% of the earth's surface
- Most of the world's population is concentrated in five areas
  - East Asia, including China, Korea, Japan, and Taiwan
  - South Asia, with India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka
  - Southeast Asia
  - Europe
  - North America



- I. Physical Factors
  - a. Population tends to cluster around seaports and fresh water sources
  - b. Most people live near the ocean
    - i. 2/3 of the world's population today lives within 500 miles of the ocean
  - c. Much of the earth's land surface is unfriendly (uninhabitable) to human habitation
    - i. Eight of the ten most populous cities in the world are on or near earthquake faults
  - d. Population is usually sparse in extremely dry, wet, cold or mountainous areas
  - e. People tend to settle in low-lying areas with fertile soil and a temperate or mild climate
- II. Human Factors
  - a. The need to establish a capital city at a central location

- b. The need to establish new transportation routes
- c. As technology improves, people are able to explore and settle new areas despite physical barriers
- d. Economic activities bring people to new areas
- e. The discovery of valuable resources, such as gold, diamonds or oil may attract settlers to an otherwise unfavorable area

III. Changes in Settlement Patterns

- a. Settlement patterns sometimes change over time
- b. As areas urbanize, surrounding areas attract new settlers
- c. Construction of new transportation routes
  - i. Far West of U.S was sparsely settled until the discovery of gold and the construction of the continental railroad

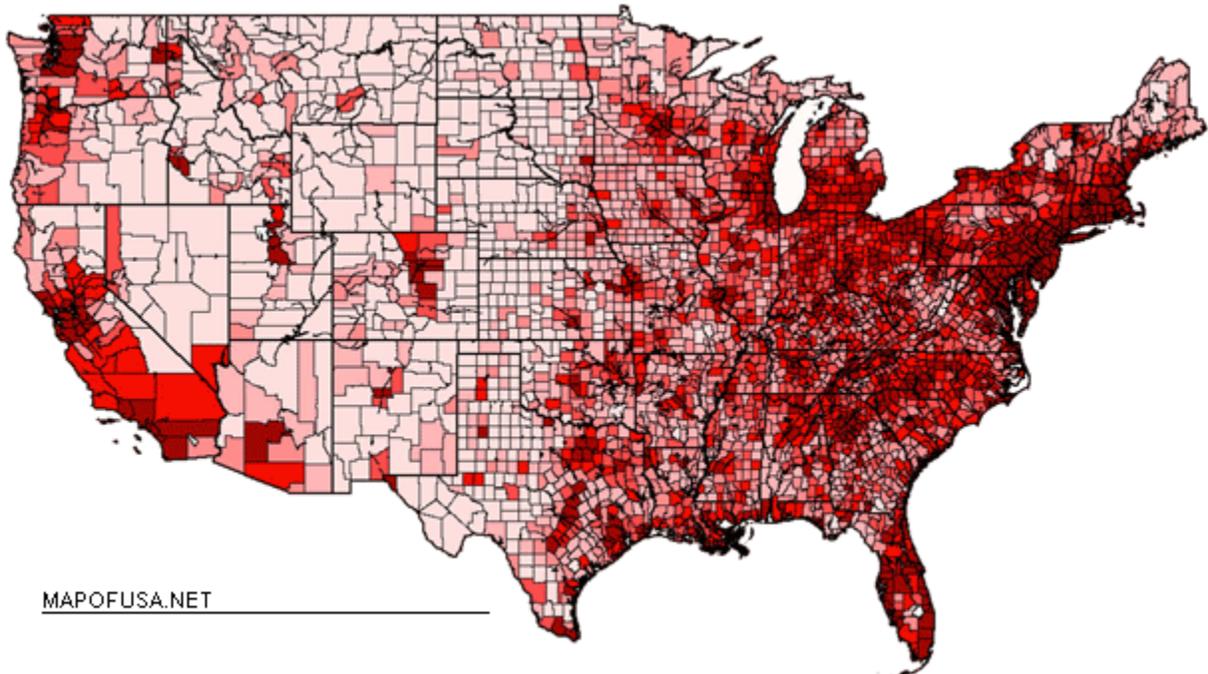


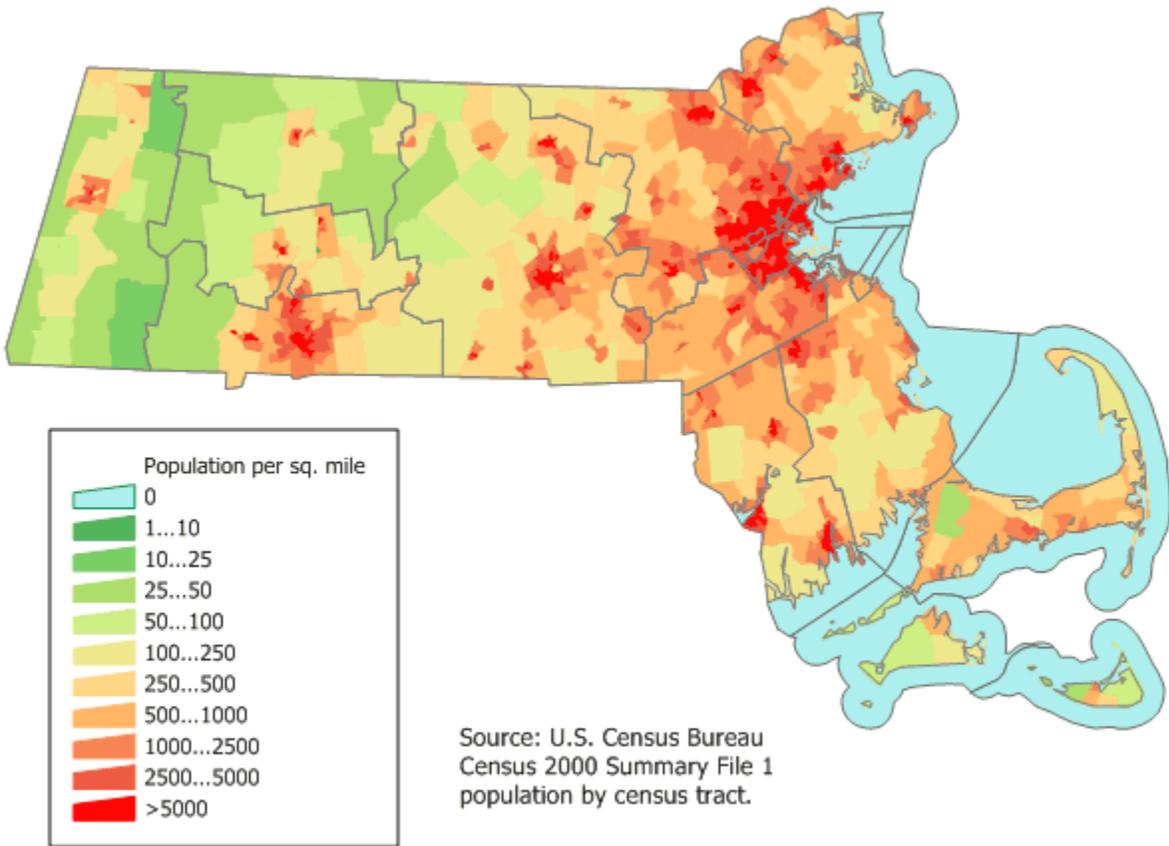
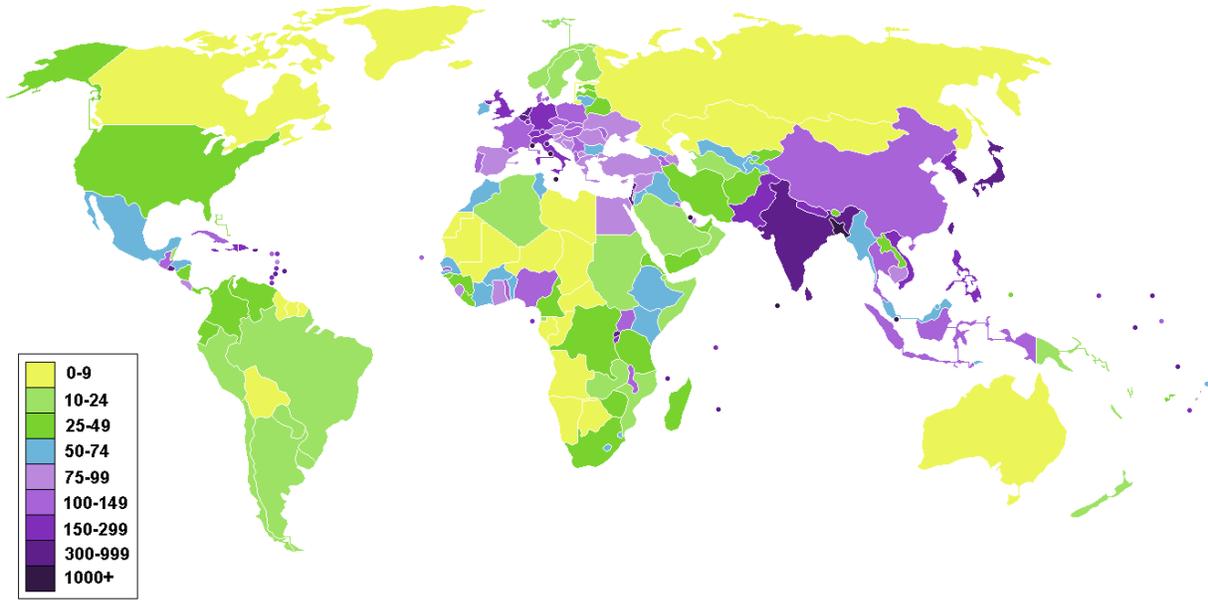


## Population Density Maps

Geographers measure patterns of population by looking at population density- how many people live in a certain area.

They often measure average number of people in a square mile to determine population density



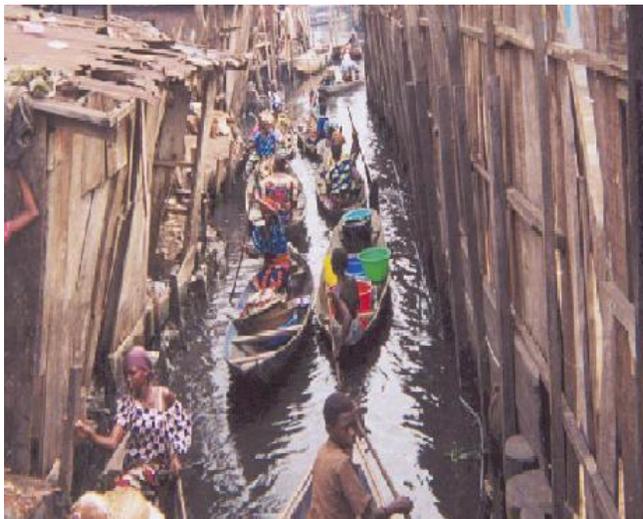


Source: U.S. Census Bureau  
 Census 2000 Summary File 1  
 population by census tract.



- III. Less developed countries
  - a. Squatter Settlements
    - i. People arrive from the countryside without education or resources
    - ii. They live where they can, and do not pay for housing
    - iii. Often live in shanty towns
      - 1. Slum settlement
      - 2. Dwellings made from scrap materials
        - a. Plywood
        - b. Corrugated metal
        - c. Plastic sheets

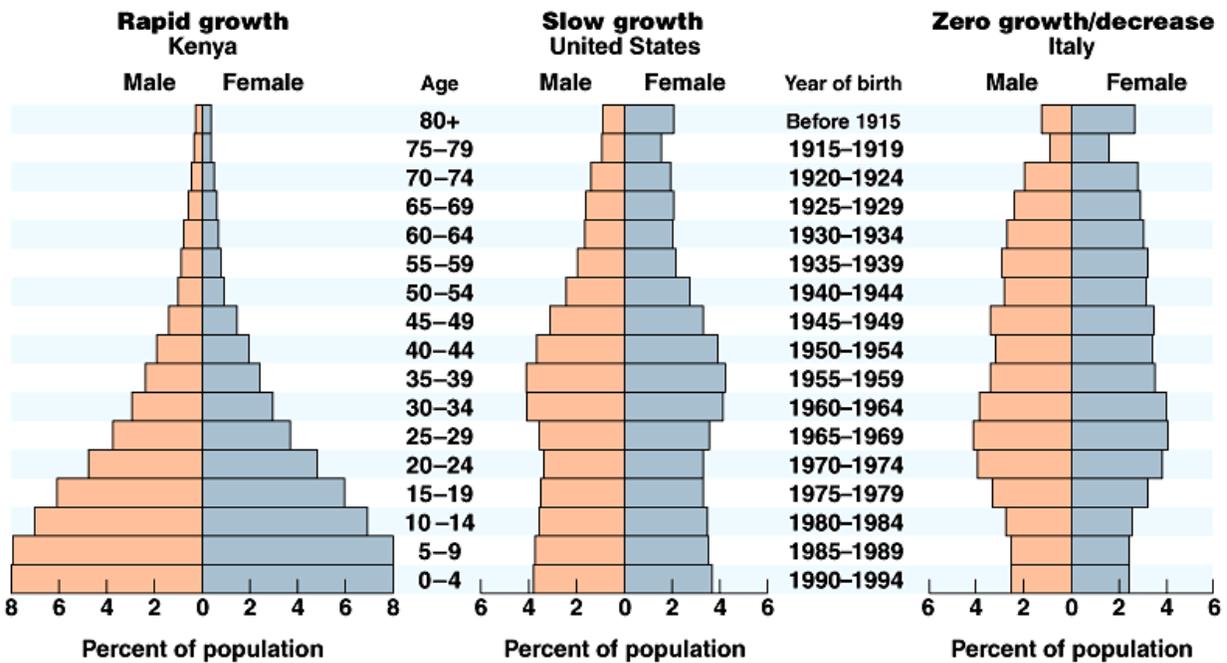
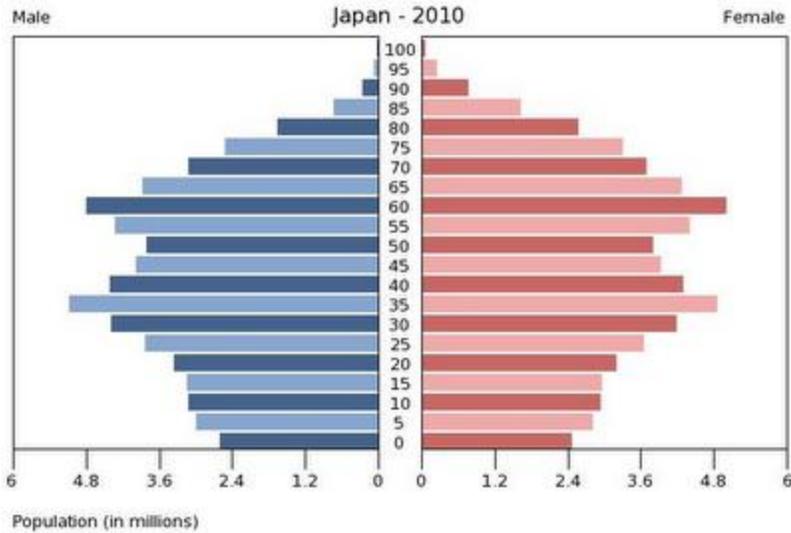




## Population Pyramids

Demographers study the characteristics of human populations as well as where people settle.

For example, they compare the numbers of males and females in a society, as well as look at the average age of both populations



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- I. Demographers can tell a great deal about a culture by examining its population
  - a. General health
  - b. Education level
  - c. Lifestyle
  - d. General age of the population
  - e. Birthrate/death rate
  - f. Social needs

Notes created by Audrey Alamo, PreAP World Geography based on excerpts from "Mastering the TEKS in World Geography," Jarrett Publishing.