

## Guide to Reading

## Main Idea

The world's population is growing rapidly, and how and where people live are changing, too.

## Terms to Know

- death rate
- birthrate
- famine
- population density
- urbanization
- emigrate
- refugee

## Places to Locate

- Afghanistan
- Nepal
- Mexico City
- Buenos Aires

## Reading Strategy

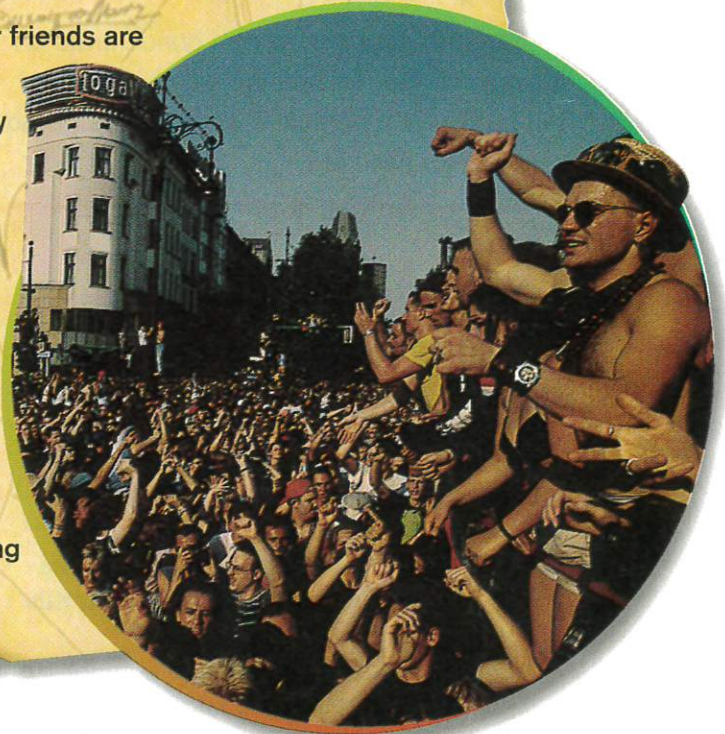
Draw a chart like this one. In the right column, write a result of the fact listed in the left column.

Fact	Result
World population is increasing.	
Population is not evenly distributed.	
People move from place to place.	



## Exploring our World

Imagine that you and your friends are in Berlin, Germany. Can you hear the music? Every summer, hundreds of thousands of young people gather here for a music festival. Although most of these young people are here only to visit, many thousands of others come to find jobs and new lives. Germany faces challenges in finding room for its newcomers.

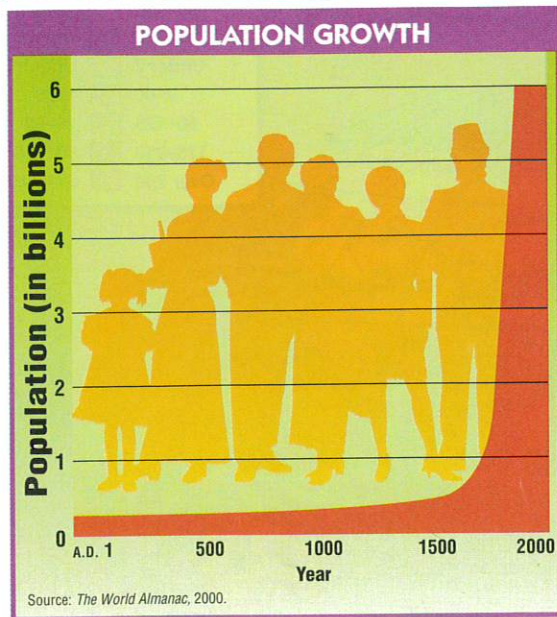


On October 12, 1999, the world reached a significant turning point in its history. About 370,000 babies were born around the world that day. One of those babies—no one knows exactly which one—was the world's six *billionth* human being.

## Population Growth

How fast has the earth's population grown? The chart on page 85 shows world population over the years. You will see that for more than fifteen hundred years, the world's population remained about the same size. The world did not have 1 billion people until about 1800. The second billion was not reached until 1930. By 1974 the population had doubled to 4 billion. In 1999, it reached 6 billion.

**Reasons for Population Growth** Why has the world's population grown so fast in the past 200 years? One reason is that the death rate has gone down. The **death rate** is the number of people out of every 1,000 who die in a year. Better health care and living conditions have cut the death rate.



MOST POPULOUS COUNTRIES	
Country	Millions of People
China	1,254.1
India	1,000.8
United States	281.0
Indonesia	211.8
Brazil	168.0
Pakistan	146.5
Russia	146.5

Sources: *National Geographic Atlas of the World; The World Almanac, 2000.*



## Analyzing the Graph and Chart

The world's population is expected to reach about 9 billion by 2050.

**Place** Which country has the second-largest number of people?



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Another reason for the fast growth in the world's population is that in some regions of the world the birthrate is high. The **birthrate** is the number of children born each year for every 1,000 people. In Asia, Africa, and Latin America, families traditionally are large because children help with farming. High numbers of births have combined with low death rates to increase population growth in these areas. As a result, population in these continents has doubled every 25 years or so.

**Challenges From Population Growth** Rapid population growth presents many challenges. An increase in the number of people means that more food is needed. Fortunately, since 1950 world food production has increased faster than population on all continents except Africa. Because so many people there need food, bad weather or war can ruin crops and bring disaster. Millions may suffer from **famine**, or lack of food.

Also, populations that grow rapidly may use resources more quickly than populations that do not grow as fast. Some countries face shortages of water and housing. Population growth also puts a strain on economies. More people means a country must create more jobs. Some experts claim that rapid population growth could badly affect the planet. Others are optimistic. They predict that as the number of humans rises, the levels of technology and creativity will also rise.

**✓ Reading Check** How do the definitions of death rate and birthrate differ?

## Where People Live

Where do all the people live? Actually, the world's people live on a surprisingly small part of the earth. As you learned in Chapter 2, land covers only about 30 percent of the earth's surface. Half of this land is

# World Population Density

Persons per	
Sq. Mi.	Sq. Km
Uninhabited	Uninhabited
Under 2	Under 1
2-60	1-25
60-125	25-50
125-250	50-100
Over 250	Over 100



Cities	
■	City with more than 10,000,000 people
●	City with 5,000,000 to 10,000,000 people
○	City with 2,000,000 to 5,000,000 people

**Applying Map Skills**

1. How many people live in London?
2. What cities have more than 10 million people?

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not usable by humans, however. Large numbers of people cannot survive on land covered with ice, deserts, or high mountains. The world's people, then, live on a small fraction of the earth's surface.

**Population Distribution** Even on the usable land, population is not distributed, or spread, evenly. People naturally prefer to live in places that have plentiful water, good land, and a favorable climate. During the industrial age, people moved to places that had important resources such as coal or iron ore to run or make machines. People gather in other areas because these places hold religious significance or because they are government and transportation centers. The table on page 85 shows you the most populous countries in the world. Four of these countries are located on the Asian continent.

**Population Density** Geographers have a way of determining how crowded a country or region is. They measure **population density**—the average number of people living in a square mile or square kilometer. To arrive at this figure, the total population is divided by the total land area. For example, the countries of **Afghanistan** and **Nepal**

have about the same number of people. They are very different in terms of population density, though. With a smaller land area, Nepal has 447 people per square mile (173 people per sq. km). Afghanistan has an average of only 103 people per square mile (40 people per sq. km). Nepal, then, is more crowded than Afghanistan.

Remember that population density is an *average*. It assumes that people are distributed evenly throughout a country. Of course, this seldom happens. A country may have several large cities where most of the people actually live. In Egypt, for example, overall population density is 173 people per square mile (67 people per sq. km). In reality, about 99 percent of Egypt's people live within 20 miles (32 km) of the Nile River. The rest of Egypt is desert. Thus, some geographers prefer to figure a country's population density in terms of farmable or usable land rather than total land area. When Egypt's population density is measured this way, it equals about 5,550 people per square mile. The map on page 13 of the **Geography Handbook** shows how population density can vary within a country. The areas with high density in Egypt follow the path of the Nile River.

**Reading Check** What is population density?

## Population Movement

Throughout the world, people are moving in great numbers from place to place. Some people move from city to city, or suburb to suburb. More and more people are leaving villages and farms and moving to cities. This movement to cities is called **urbanization**.

**Geography Online**

**Web Activity** Visit the **Geography: The World and Its People** Web site at [gwip.glencoe.com](http://gwip.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 3—Student Web Activities** to learn more about the world population “clock.”

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**

## On Location



### Kosovo, Yugoslavia

In 1999 a civil war exploded in Kosovo, a province of Yugoslavia. Thousands of people were forced from their homes.

**Movement** What causes people to become refugees?

People move to cities for many reasons. The biggest one is to find jobs. Rural populations have grown, but the amount of land that can be farmed has not increased to meet the growing number of people who need to work and to eat. As a result, many people find city jobs in manufacturing or in services like tourism.

Nearly half the world's people live in cities—a far higher percentage than ever before. Between 1960 and 2000, the population of **Mexico City** more than tripled. Other cities in Latin America, as well as cities in Asia and Africa, have seen similar growth. Some of these cities hold a large part of a country's entire population. About one-third of Argentina's people, for instance, live in the city of **Buenos Aires**.

Some population movement is between countries. Some people **emigrate**, or leave the country where they were born and move to another. They are called *emigrants* in their homeland and referred to as *immigrants* in their new country. In the past 40 years, millions have left Africa, Asia, and Latin America to find jobs in the richer nations of Europe and North America. Some people were forced to flee their country because of wars, political unrest, food shortages, or other problems. They are **refugees**, or people who flee to another country to escape persecution or disaster.

 **Reading Check** Why do so many people move from rural areas to cities?

## Section

# 2

## Assessment

### Defining Terms

1. **Define** death rate, birthrate, famine, population density, urbanization, emigrate, refugee.

### Recalling Facts

2. **Culture** What are three problems caused by overpopulation?
3. **Human/Environment Interaction** Why do people live on only a small fraction of the earth?
4. **Economics** What is the main reason for growing urbanization?

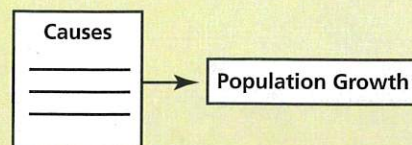
### Critical Thinking

5. **Making Comparisons** What is the difference between an emigrant and an immigrant?

6. **Understanding Cause and Effect** Why have populations in areas of Asia, Africa, and Latin America doubled every 25 years or so?

### Graphic Organizer

7. **Organizing Information** Draw a diagram like this one, and list three causes of population growth.



## Applying Geography Skills

8. **Analyzing Maps** Look at the population density map on page 86. How would you describe the population density around Tokyo?