

UNIT 1 - POPULATION DYNAMICS

Content

- World population growth over time
- Causes and consequences of overpopulation and underpopulation
- Patterns of population growth and strategies to influence growth rates
- Population structure (Population pyramids and the Demographic Transition Model)
- Dependency ratio
- Consequences of different patterns of population growth
- Migration: the major influences on population movements
- Major influences on population density and distribution
- Development indicators linked to population (infant mortality rate, life expectancy etc.)

Resources & ICT

- IGCSE Geography textbook
- <http://bmgeography.weebly.com>
- scoop.it Geography at BM page
- Worksheets, Keynote presentation
- Past IGCSE exam papers
- Internet research: news websites, YouTube clips
- iPhone vocabulary flashcards
- iPad: CIA world factbook app, Google Earth app

Types of assessment

- Past IGCSE exam questions
- Case study research reports
- Mapping and graphing population statistics
- Case study posters
- Class discussion and presentations
- Vocabulary worksheets
- Factual quizzes
- End of unit topic test

Students to Know

- How the world's population has grown over time, and the impact technological advances have had on this change
- The major migration patterns over time, with reference to the difference between forced and voluntary migration
- Vocabulary terms relating to population dynamics

Students to Understand

- The causes and consequences of different patterns of population growth
- The relationship of push & pull factors in individuals' and groups' reasons for migration
- How population change can affect and be affected by development
- Implication an ageing or youthful population can have in a particular country

Students to be able to Do

- Provide concrete examples of contemporary issues relating to population growth and change
- Interpret and graph population statistics & population pyramids
- Explain and draw the Demographic Transition Model
- Calculate rates of population growth
- Calculate and explain the dependency ratio, sex ratio, birth & death rates

Cross curricular links

- History: patterns of population growth and change
- Economics: implications of over/underpopulation on economic development
- Mathematics: graphing population data; calculating growth rates
- PSHE: HIV/AIDS impact

Differentiation incl. EAL

- Vocabulary focus worksheets
- Online vocabulary flashcards using iPhone app
- Groupwork assignments: some mixed ability, some asked to do different tasks

Learning styles activities

- Groupwork
- Large & small group discussion
- Individual research
- Data interpretation & graphing
- YouTube clips & news reports
- Lectures
- Poster production
- Formal quizzes & tests



The Hong Kong skyline seen from Victoria Peak

David Hiff / CC BY 3.0

Global citizenship, internationalism, local environment

- Research on population statistics of students' home countries & Switzerland
- Migration: current government policy, refugee movements
- Impact of HIV/AIDS on Sub-Saharan Africa: case studies



UNIT 2 - SETTLEMENT DYNAMICS

Content

- Hierarchy of settlements
- Patterns of rural settlement
- Factors influencing the size & development of urban & rural settlements
- Models of urban development
- High & low order services
- Land use in urban areas of LEDCs & MEDCs
- The Central Business District
- Problems facing urban areas in LEDCs & MEDCs with possible solutions
- Environmental & social impact of urbanization

Resources & ICT

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Types of assessment

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- Vocabulary worksheets
- Quizzes
- End of unit topic test

Students to Know

- Specific vocabulary related to settlement
- The hierarchy of settlements & services
- Different patterns of rural & urban settlement
- The different patterns of urban structure in LEDCs & MEDCs

Students to Understand

- How physical factors & other factors influence the sites & patterns of rural settlements
- The reasons for contrasting patterns of urban structure & development
- The effects of urbanization on the environment
- The reasons for the rise of out of town shopping centers

Students to be able to Do

- Describe & sketch the patterns of rural settlements – dispersed, linear, nucleated
- Describe & explain the factors which may influence the size, growth & function of rural & urban settlements
- Describe problems associated with the growth of urban areas & identify solutions with specific contemporary examples

Cross curricular links

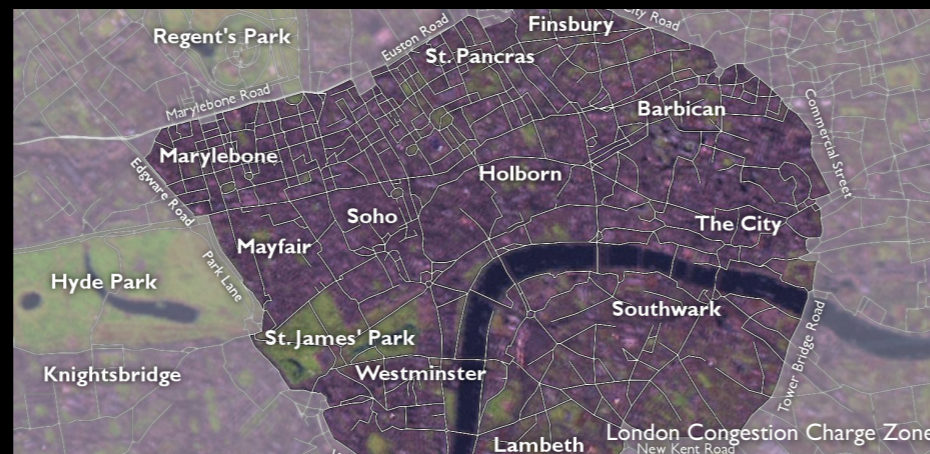
- History; historical development of settlements & reasons for growth
- Economics; relative economic importance of cities, levels of development
- Mathematics; migration rates, graphs

Differentiation incl. EAL

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- Groupwork assignments: some mixed ability, some asked to do different tasks

Learning styles activities

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Global citizenship, internationalism, local environment

- Rural & urban change
- Squatter settlements: examples from around the world (Kenya, Brazil, India etc.)
- Problems facing cities & possible solutions (e.g. London's congestion charging scheme, Curitiba's Bus Rapid Transit program)
- Sustainable & Green cities

UNIT 3 - PLATE TECTONICS

Content

- Theory of plate tectonics & evidence
- Fold mountains, volcanoes & earthquakes
- Plate boundaries
- Global pattern of plates
- Constructive, destructive, conservative margins
- Features of volcanoes & earthquakes

Resources & ICT

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- Quizzes
- End of unit topic test

Students to Know

- Structure of the Earth
- The difference between constructive, destructive & conservative plate boundaries
- The distribution of fold mountains, volcanoes & earthquakes

Students to Understand

- How the distribution of mountains, volcanoes & earthquakes is related to movements at plate boundaries
- The effects of plate movements
- How the effects of volcanic eruptions & earthquakes are different in LEDCs & MEDCs

Students to be able to Do

- Describe the global pattern of plates & their structure
- Identify & sketch the different types of plate boundaries

Cross curricular links

- Economics; the cost of volcanic eruptions & earthquakes
- Earth science; structure of the Earth

Differentiation incl. EAL

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Etna eruption seen from the International Space Station

NASA / Public domain

Global citizenship, internationalism, local environment

- Case studies of volcanic eruptions & earthquakes (D.R. Congo 2002, Haiti 2010, Japan 2011 etc.)
- The risks & benefits of living near plate boundaries
- Links between development & disaster management; the impact on humanity



UNIT 4 - LANDFORMS AND LANDSCAPE PROCESSES

Content

- Weathering, river & marine processes
- Physical, chemical & biological weathering
- Controls of weathering
- Landforms associated with limestone & granite
- Features of river erosion & deposition
- Features of marine erosion & deposition
- Coral reefs: types and threats

Resources & ICT

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- End of unit topic test

Students to Know

- Different types of weathering & descriptions
- The long profile of a river
- Processes of erosion & transportation

Students to Understand

- The work of a river in erosion, transportation & deposition
- The work of wave processes on a coastline

Students to be able to Do

- Explain the main factors influencing the type & rate of weathering
- Describe & explain the landforms associated with river processes
- Describe & explain the landforms associated with marine processes
- Describe & explain the conditions required for the formation of coral reefs

Cross curricular links

- Chemistry; processes of chemical weathering
- Earth sciences; river & marine processes & landforms

Differentiation incl. EAL

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Learning styles activities

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Global citizenship, internationalism, local environment

- Local & international examples of river & marine environments
- Importance of coral reefs to the marine environment; focus on the Great Barrier Reef and efforts to ensure its survival



UNIT 5 – WEATHER, CLIMATE & NATURAL VEGETATION

Content

- The methods of collecting & measuring meteorological data
- Characteristics of climate & natural vegetation of tropical rainforest & deserts
- Relationship between climate & natural vegetation

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Students to Know

- The use & siting of a weather station: rain-gauge, max-min thermometer, hygrometer, barometer, anemometer, wind vane

Students to Understand

- The different types of cloud & what they indicate
- The location & characteristics of a Stevenson Screen
- The links between climate & vegetation

Students to be able to Do

- Interpret graphs & other diagrams showing weather data
- Make calculations using information from weather instruments
- Describe & explain the main characteristics of climate in the tropical rainforest & desert
- Describe the characteristics & distribution of tropical rainforest & desert
- Explain the relationship in ecosystems between natural vegetation, wildlife & climate

Cross curricular links

- Mathematics; climate graphs & use of data
- Earth science; ecosystems

Differentiation incl. EAL

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Learning styles activities

- Groupwork
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Cumulonimbus cloud over Africa

NASA / Public domain

Global citizenship, internationalism, local environment

- Importance of the Tropical Rainforest – focus on the Amazon Rainforest
- Climate data from varied locations around the world & in Switzerland

