

GRADE 6 GEOGRAPHY: TERM 4

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GRADE 6 GEOGRAPHY TERM 4

Population

It is **estimated** that just over 50 million people live in South Africa.

Population: This is a word for a total number of people who live in an area.

Estimated: This means 'about' or 'approximately'

Population distribution and population density in South Africa

1. The 50 million people living in South Africa are spread out, or **distributed**, across the whole of the country.
2. Some parts of the country have more people living in them than other parts. This means that the **population distribution** of South Africa is uneven.
3. We use the term '**population density**' to describe the number of people who live in an area, and how closely they live to each other to fit into this area.
4. There are a number of reasons why more people would choose to live in one area when they could also stay in another area.
5. There are **positive** and **negative** factors that affect the population density of an area. These factors are:

Positive factors encouraging settlement	Negative factors discouraging settlement
A regular water supply	A dry climate with poor rainfall
Good farming land	Poor soil
Nice, moderate climate (not too hot or too cold)	Extreme heat or cold
Flat, open land to build on	Steep areas and/or thick forests
Available raw materials, e.g. wood, iron	Few raw materials
Good communication and transport systems	Poor communication and transport systems
Plenty of jobs available	Very little work available

6. Areas can be **densely populated** or **sparsely populated**. When your class stepped into the small circle, you were densely populated in that area!

7. Areas such as cities, where the climate is good and many resources are available, are usually densely populated. Mountainous areas, deserts and very cold areas where there are few or no resources are usually sparsely populated.

Densely populated: An area where a lot of people live, such as a city. Often people live very close to each other.

Sparsely populated: An area where very few people live, such as the countryside. People and groups of people live very spread out and not close to each other.



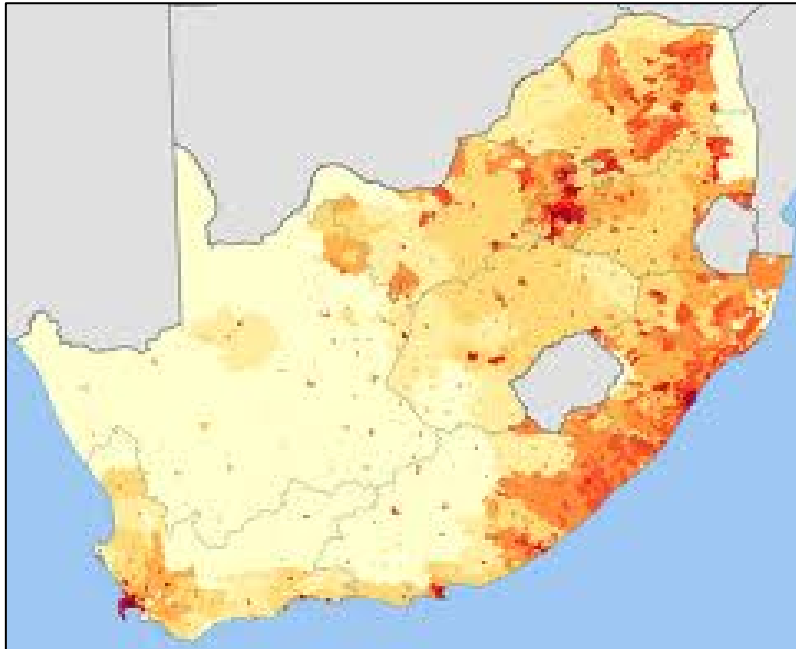
Which of these two images is the sparsely populated area, and which is the densely populated area?

Activity 1

- Think about the area where you live. Do you live in a densely populated area or a sparsely populated area? Why do you describe your area in this way?
- Look at the table on page 1 again. Which of these factors do you think influenced why people live in your area?
- Are there any other reasons, not mentioned in the table, that explain why people live in your area?

Population distribution in South Africa (distribution map)

A population distribution map shows how an area's population is spread across that area. The map below shows the population distribution in South Africa. The darker the shaded area, the more densely populated that area is. The lighter shaded areas show the more sparsely populated areas in South Africa.



Activity 2

Study the population distribution map of South Africa and then answer the following questions in your workbook:

- Describe the population distribution in South Africa. Is it evenly distributed or unevenly distributed? How do you know this?
- Which provinces are the most densely populated?
- Study a physical map of South Africa in an atlas. Point to the areas where there are mountains, rivers and deserts. Now, use this physical map, the population distribution map and the table on page 1 to complete the following table:

	Name of area/place in South Africa	Three reasons why people have chosen to/not to live there
Densely populated area	1.	
	2.	
	3.	
Sparsely populated area	1.	
	2.	
	3.	

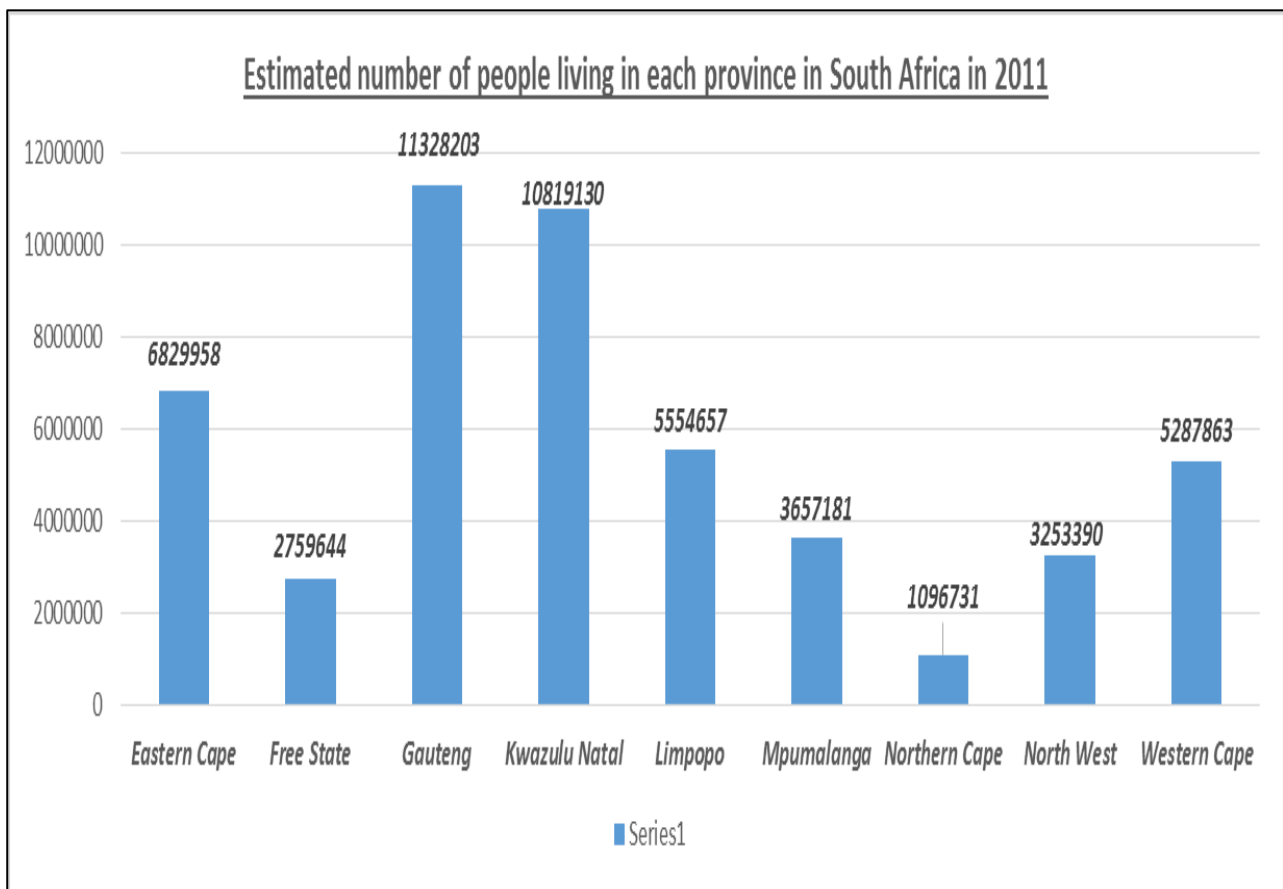
- Do you think that the distribution of people in South Africa has always been the same as this map shows? Give reasons for your answer.

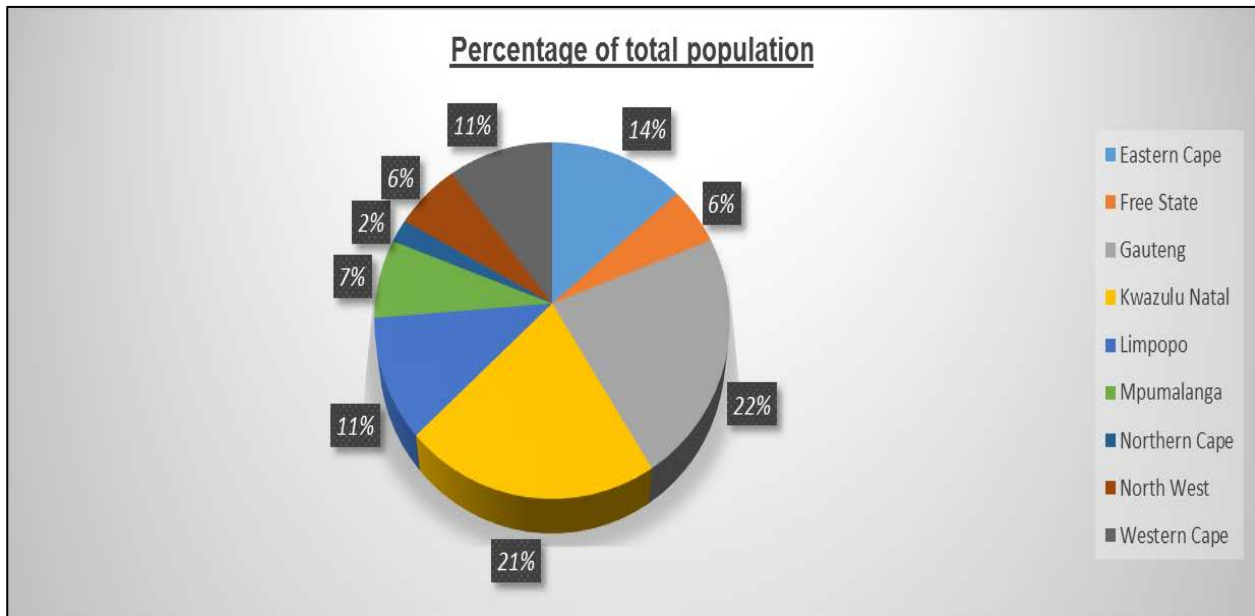
Activity 3

Find information on the graphs that show population information for South Africa. (Individual work)

Study the bar graph and the pie chart and then answer these questions:

- Write a list of all nine provinces, arranging them in order from the most populated to the least populated. The province with the highest population must come first, and the province with the lowest population last.
- Study the pie chart carefully.
 - What percentage of South Africans live in KZN?
 - What percentage of the South African population lives in the Northern Cape?
 - What percentage of the total population lives in the province where you live? Is this higher or lower than you expected? Why do you say this?
- In your province, do you think most people live in rural or urban areas? Why do you say this?



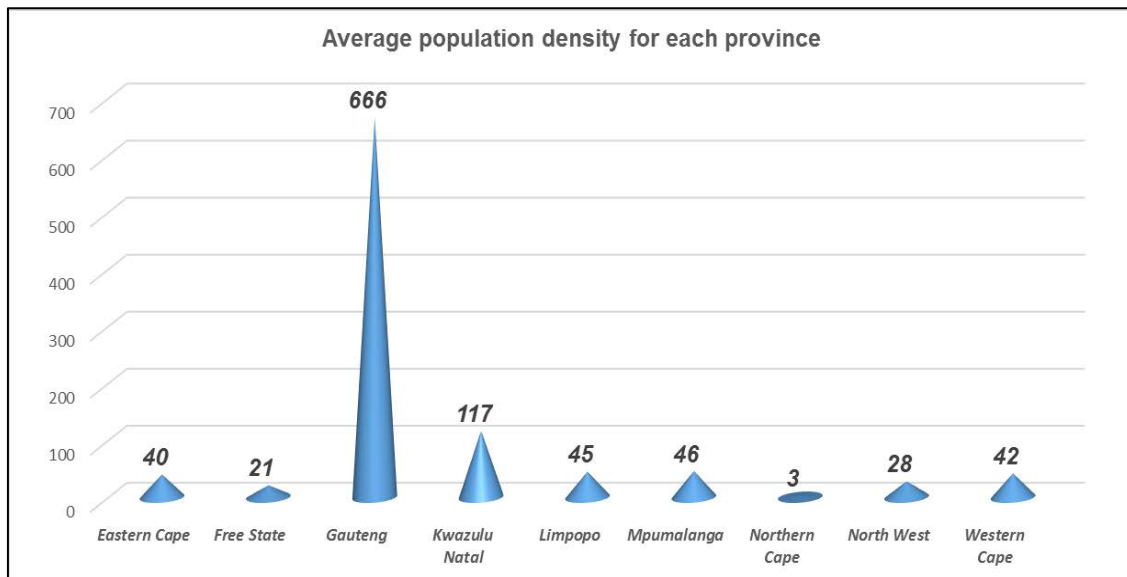


Average population density for each province (reading graphs)

The **average** population density of a province, tells us how densely or sparsely populated a province is. In other words, it tells us how many people live in a square kilometre.

Average: The usual or typical amount or kind.

The following graph shows the average population density of each province in South Africa.



Activity 4

Work on your own. Study the graph of the average population density for each province on page 5 and answer the following questions in your workbooks.

1. Which province has the highest population density?
2. Which two provinces have the lowest population density?
3. What do you think are the possible reasons for the differences in population density between these? (Hint: refer back to the table on positive and negative factors to help you answer this question.)

Why people live where they do in South Africa?

In the previous unit you saw that the population of South Africa is unevenly distributed. The smallest province, Gauteng, is by far the most densely populated province. There are different reasons why people choose to live in certain areas.



A



B

Activity 5

Work out why people live where they do (Work in groups of 2-3)

Discuss the following questions, based on the pictures above.

1. Look at picture A: Suggest three possible reasons why people would have chosen to settle here.
2. Look at Picture B: Why would people not want to settle in this area?

Different reasons for the location of settlements

There are many reasons why people choose to live in an area and settlements begin. Here are some more reasons why settlements start:



Industrial towns start because factories are built there. This is because resources such as coal are close by, for example, Sasolburg.



Mining towns start because minerals are found in the area. Mines that provide work and attract people are set up in the area, for example, Johannesburg and Kimberley.



Harbour towns start because the bays are safe to build harbours, for example Port Elizabeth.



Fishing towns start because there is lots of fish available and people can make a living out of it, for example, Gansbaai and Lambert's Bay.

The laws of South Africa have also influenced where people live. Before 1994, people were forced to live in specific areas because of the colour of their skin.

Today, people can live wherever they want to, providing they can afford to live there. But, laws will still prevent them from living in certain places. For example, you cannot live:

- In a place that belongs to someone else
- In an area that is a protected area such as a national park
- In an area that is not safe

Rural and urban areas

The places where people live can be divided into two main kinds: **rural areas** and **urban areas**.

Urban areas: Cities or big towns, or places close to them where a lot of people live, with many shops, services and businesses.

Rural areas: Areas where people mostly live on farms or in farming areas and where most people work in agriculture. There are villages in rural settlements or small towns.

Rural areas refer to areas in the countryside where there are many open spaces. People do not live close together and these areas are sparsely populated. People who settle in country places may be farmers, or they may run small businesses in villages or small towns. Some people live on land where their family has lived for many generations.

Urban areas are cities and places near to them. They are densely populated. There are many buildings, factories and businesses there. It can be noisy and crowded, but some people enjoy the excitement and fast pace of the city.



Photograph A



Photograph B

Activity 6

Compare rural and urban areas using information from photographs (work in groups of 2-3)

Study the two photographs above and discuss the following questions with a partner.

1. Which photograph shows a rural area? What, in the photograph, tells you this?
2. Which photograph shows an urban area? What, in the photograph, tells you this?
3. Write a paragraph about how the people in these pictures live. Write about similarities and differences. Mention the following: What things can they do to have enough food to eat? How they access water? What they do for entertainment? You may also include any other information that you think may be important

How do urban settlements develop and grow?

In order to answer this question, let us use the city of Johannesburg as an example:

- In the 1880's gold was discovered in the area that was to become Johannesburg. As a result, thousands of people flocked to this area and settled there, hoping to get rich.
- More and more houses were built and because people needed basic things like food and clothing, shops started selling these goods.
- In time, services such as water and electricity were provided. Roads, railway lines and stations were also built.
- Banks and other offices were opened, and hospitals and schools were built.
- People also needed entertainment and so restaurants, theatres and cinemas were built.



The city of Johannesburg. Note how close the buildings are to one another.

The settlement grew larger and larger until it became the huge city that it is today. Most of the gold has already been mined, but the city is still the business centre of South Africa.

More and more people across the world are choosing to live in urban areas. Even though it is quieter in rural areas and there are more open spaces, there is often less work there and people are not paid as much money as they would get in a city.

Many people move to cities because there is more work there and different kinds of jobs. It is often easier to get good medical care, choose a school for your children, and access other services.

Activity 7

Identify why people move from rural to urban areas (Work in groups of 2-3)

Copy the following list into your book. Next to each one, write **push** or **pull**. Write **push** if the reason is one that would make somebody want to leave an area. Write **pull** if you think the reason is one that would make somebody move to an area.

- Drought
- Jobs on mines or in factories
- Better educational opportunities
- Lack of development in rural areas
- Few jobs on farms because of new machinery
- Access to doctors and healthcare

It is not always easy to decide if it is better to live in a rural area or an urban area. There are advantages and disadvantages to living in rural areas as well as in urban areas.

Activity 8

Compare the advantages and disadvantages of rural and urban areas (Work on your own.)

Copy the table into your book. Fill in at least three advantages and disadvantages for each area. Some ideas that you can use have been suggested below the table.

	Rural areas	Urban areas
1. Advantages		
2. Disadvantages		

Suggestions:

traffic jams	little work	lots of people	air pollution
lots of work	minimum services	no public transport	clean air
few people	light traffic	constant noise	public transport
many hospitals	large factories	choice of schools	movie theatres

3. Compare your table to your partner's table. Was there anything that you thought was a disadvantage that they thought was an advantage, or the other way around? Why do you think this is so?
4. Where would you prefer to live – in a rural or an urban area? Why? Explain your reasons in a one-minute speech to the class.

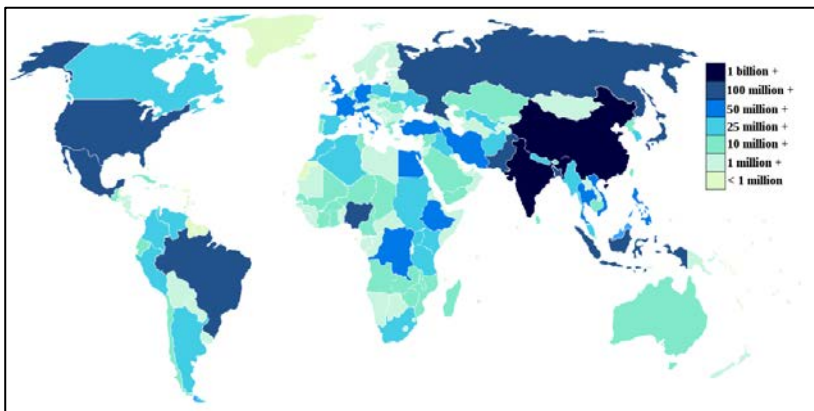


People around the world

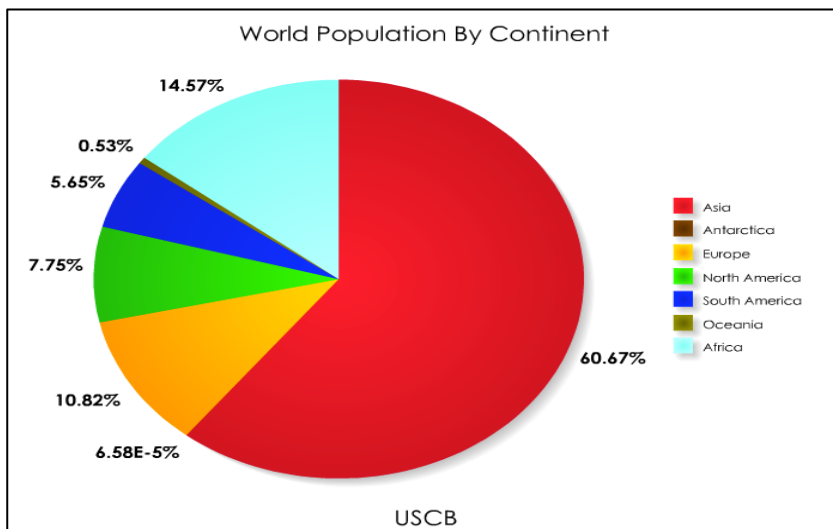
Over 7 billion people live on planet Earth. These people are not evenly distributed across the world. Most people live in areas which are flat and where the climate is good for growing food. Very few people live in mountainous areas, or very cold or very dry areas.

Population distribution around the world (distribution map)

The following map shows the distribution of the world's population.



The following pie chart shows the population distribution of the world on each continent:



Activity 9

Interpret population distribution around the world (Individual)

Study the world population distribution map and the pie chart of the population distribution of the continents and then answer the following questions in your workbooks.

1. Which continent has more than half the world's population?
2. In which parts of that continent do most people live?
3. Which continent has the second biggest population distribution?
4. Which continent has the smallest population distribution? Why do you think this is so?

The influence of climate, water and mineral resources on global settlement

The three key reasons why some areas are more densely populated and some are sparsely populated are:

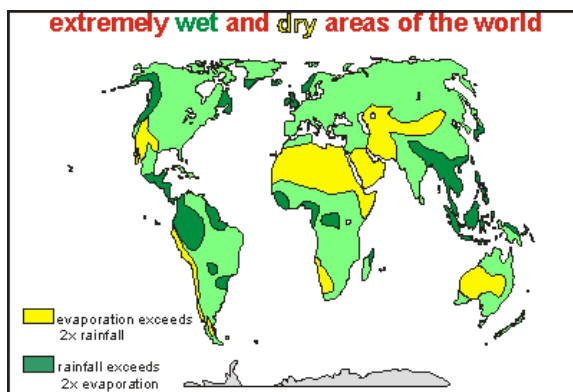
- The influence of climate
- Access to fresh water
- Mineral resources

These are definitely not the *only* three factors affecting the world's population distribution, but they are probably the most important.

Let us find out how true this is by studying the following three world maps.



A Climate map



World rainfall distribution



The location of minerals
across the world

Activity 10

Link population to climate resources (Groups and individual)

Work in groups of two or three, but answer the questions in your workbook individually.

1. Look at the map of population distribution. Identify the two most densely populated and the two most sparsely populated continents.
2. Copy the following table into your workbooks and fill in the missing information. You may need to use an atlas to help you locate these areas on the world population distribution map.
- 3.

Area on the map	Climatic region	Population density
Sahara Desert		Sparsely populated
Greenland	Very dry and very cold	
Europe	Moderately wet and cool	
India		Densely populated
Central Africa	Very wet and very hot	

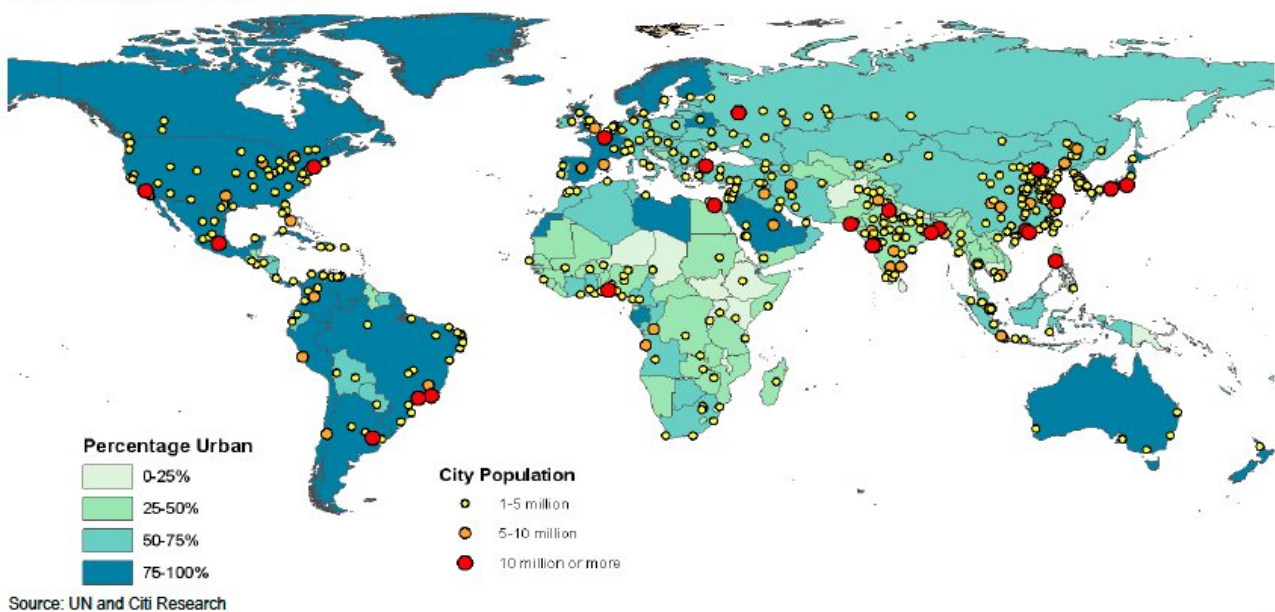
4. Using the table, answer the following questions:
 - a) In which kind of climates do most people live?
 - b) In which kind of climates do the least number of people live?

- Find the following areas on a map: The Amazon rainforest; the Himalayas; the Australian Outback. Look at these areas on the population distribution map. What do you notice about these regions?
- Identify three areas that have a lot of minerals. What is the population density like in these areas – sparse or dense? Why do you think there is a link?

Major cities and their population sizes

The following major cities have more than 8 million people living in them:

Figure 12. Mega-regions in the world



Major cities and their population sizes

Activity 11

Discover why cities are so densely populated (Work in groups of 2-3.)

Study the map above. It shows the cities with 8 million or more people living in them. Now, look at the world maps that show wet and dry lands and hot and cold lands.

- On which continent are most of the fourteen cities?
- What do you notice about the positions of most of these cities?
- What other things do you think would make people choose to live in these cities?



Shanghai, the city with the highest population in the world. population of all African cities.



Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, has the highest population of all African cities

Case study of a major city: Lagos, Nigeria

With almost 8 million people, the Nigerian city of Lagos has the third largest population on the continent of Africa. It is estimated to be the second fastest growing city in Africa, and the seventh fastest in the world. Lagos is not the capital city of Nigeria, but many people are attracted to it.

Fact file on Lagos:

- Lagos is located along the West African coastline, and so is a very important port. It is one of the largest and busiest cities on the continent of Africa.
- Lagos contains the most businesses and factories in the country.
- Lagos has a tropical savannah climate. This means that although it can get very hot at times, there are two rainy seasons followed by two drier periods in a year.
- Lagos experienced a large growth of population when oil was discovered in Nigeria in the 1970s. It was seen as the centre of the oil business.
- Lagos has one of the highest standards of living when compared to other countries in Nigeria and the rest of the African continent.
- Most of the country's banks and financial institutions are in Lagos.



The city, Lagos, in Nigeria



DID YOU KNOW?

Lagos has one of the largest Dumps for unwanted or old Electronic items. This is called e-waste. This is a very serious threat to the environment and can also be dangerous to people's health.

Not everything about Lagos is positive. It has some of the most overcrowded areas on the African continent. These areas are called **slums**. This is because too many people move into the city for the city to cope. This has led to a shortage of housing, overcrowding, and a lack of basic services such as access to clean water and adequate sanitation and waste removal.

Slum: A slum is a very poor part of a city where people live in overcrowded shelters rather than houses, and where there is a shortage of access to basic resources such as clean water, adequate sanitation, refuse removal etc.

Bibliography: Angier K; Carr D; Cockburn J; Wallace J – Our world, our society grade 6