

Name/Date:

**Social Studies 11 Unit 4 Human Geography**

# 4D Population Issues

## Reference

Counterpoints Ch. 13: Population  
Canada and the World, p. 329-339

**Define** the following terms using your text:

- population distribution

- ecumene

- population density

- arable land

- carrying capacity

- nutritional density



Ad for China's one-child policy

<http://www.traveladdicts.connectfree.co.uk/China/last.htm>

**Examine Figure 13-20** on p. 332 and answer the following questions

1. Which continents are the most densely populated? Why?

2. What relationship do you think exists between population distributions and geography (relief, climate, etc.)?

**Examine Figure 13-23** on p. 334 and attempt the following

Copy some notes based on the web. You can redraw it or make a list. If you are unsure what any of the individual factors means, provide a brief definition

### **Other questions**

3.What are some limits to population growth? (p. 335-337)

4.What are some long-term concerns about future population growth? (p. 337-338)

### **Potential discussion or essay topics (agree/disagree/defend)**

5.The earth is doomed to an overpopulation catastrophe.

6.China's one-child policy has been a success.

## **Summary Notes -- Read this to review for chapter quiz and unit test**

### *The One-Child Policy: China's Solution:* (p.329)

- One fifth of the world's population lives in China
- Twenty million children added to China's population every year
- Less than 15% of the land is suitable for cultivation
- In 1949, then leader Mao Zedong encourage increases in population of 540 million as a way to make China into a great world power
- The growth challenged China's economy
- In the 1970's people were encouraged to limit their family size (2 children)
- In 1980 the Chinese gov't. encourage a policy of one child (Mao Zedong died in 1976)
- Cash rewards, free medical care, and improved educational and housing opportunities were offered as incentives
- People with more than one child were fined
- Greater success with the policy was had in urban rather than rural areas
- Children were valued labourers and expected to look after their parents in old age
- The policy was relaxed a bit in the late 1980's due to the needs in rural areas and the reports of infanticide
- China's population is expected to increase until 2040
- City dwellers have found that one child allows them the financial means to take advantage of the luxuries available in most cities
- The one child policy has resulted in an increase in population in rural areas where the policy for all intents and purposes has been ignored putting more pressure on farmland
- There is a massive migration of younger rural population to the cities
- The increased life expectancy of people means that those born before the introduction of the one-child policy will have fewer people to look after them
- The "Little Emperor Syndrome" has developed – children who have been raised in single-child families and feel no sense of obligation to their families or society at large
- Population numbers may be the cause of the smuggling of illegal Chinese immigrants into Canada
- The question remains – What will happen in India if there isn't any population control?
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### **Where Do Six Billion People Live?**

- Population distribution refers to the way people are spaced over the Earth's surface.
- Ecumene – (Greek) now used to describe permanently inhabited places
- 35% of the world's land surface is not good for settlement
- Over 50% of the world's population lives on only 5% of the land
- 90% of the world's population lives on 20% of the land
- 67% of the world's people live within 500 kilometres of the ocean
- See diagram 13-21 on page 333 for distribution percentages
- Population density describes the number of people in a given area
- Crude densities are just the population divided by the area of the countries
- In reality, people live in much greater densities than the crude densities
- Population density is impacted by both physical and human factors
- Physical factors include: Climate, Landscape, Resources, Soils, Vegetation, Water, Accessibility
- Human factors include: Government policies, Disease, Development, Culture, Communication

### *What Are the Limits of Population Growth:*

- In 1798, Thomas Malthus predicted that the numbers of people would be checked by diseases and famine.
- Malthus proposed that population could increase exponentially while food supply could only increase arithmetically
- Malthus did not foresee improvements in agriculture, transportation, hygiene, and medicine that would make larger populations possible
- Migration of people also opened up space in Britain which Malthus did not anticipate
- Neo-Malthusians think Malthus was nonetheless, correct – there are limits to world population
- They feel disasters will overtake poor countries, shortages of arable land, conflict over fresh water, declining fish stocks, and the spread of AIDS and other diseases
- Africa will be the most susceptible to these threats

- Neo—Malthusians believe that migrations, technology, and new farming methods cannot solve the problems of the poorest countries
- It is suggested that millions will die while the population of the developing world tries to return to a balance with the environment's ability to provide food
- By 2050 estimates suggest that:
  - Nigeria and Pakistan will triple in size
  - Ethiopia with 65 million people will reach 210 million
  - The Congo will reach 165 million
  - Many of these countries are unprepared to handle the change
  - Populations will be checked by famine, disease, and war.
- If everyone were to live at the North American standard of living, the resources of three Earths would be required
- Central to limits to growth is the idea of the carrying capacity of land
- The idea suggests that land can only produce so much in the way of food given the technology of the time
- As population outstrips food supplies, it is reduced by famine and disease until it stabilizes to the land's carrying capacity
- The U.N. and the World Bank suggest that technological advances, increased trade, and more efficient ways of sharing the Earth's resources will ease the problems of developing nations
- Educational programs will increase awareness of the benefits of population control
- Enough food is produced in the world to feed everyone, the problem is distribution
- Globalization is seen as a way to create more equal distribution of food and resources and population will level off.
- Optimists suggest that the Third World is capable of reform and improvement.

#### Nutritional Density:

- Canadian farms cannot match the productivity of some areas of the world because of a short growing season
- This means that a square kilometre of land in China (year round growing) can produce more food for people than a similar area in British Columbia
- Nutritional density of land is the measure of how much nutrition in calories can be produced from the land

#### **Earth's Crowded Future:** (p. 338)

- The earth's population will continue to grow in the 21st Century
- China and India will have to realize some success with their population control
- Age structure is an important factor in determining how fast a population will increase
- Developing countries with large numbers of dependents will likely experience greater population growth than developed countries
- How many developing countries that will raise their standard of living so that birth rates will drop is unpredictable
- Changes in the birth rate in developed countries cannot be foretold
- Birth rates will continue to decline worldwide
- Countries like China and India with a large population base will endure environmental damage
- The future will be determined by the youth of developing nations; the age at which they choose to marry and the number of children they have may be the most important decisions