

## Population Density Map

1. The year \_\_\_\_\_ saw the peak of worldwide population increase which stood at \_\_\_\_\_ percent.
2. How is the world's population distributed? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Around \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the world's population live in \_\_\_\_\_ clusters, which are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What latitude(s) are these population clusters found? \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What makes this latitude band favorable for human settlement?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
6. How is overpopulation defined? \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Where are the greatest population densities found? \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Around \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the world's population live in or near large \_\_\_\_\_.
9. In the United States, almost \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the population lives near urban areas.
10. In the past, where did large segments of the population settle?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
11. How is natural increase defined? \_\_\_\_\_.
12. How is the low birth rate affecting the industrial countries? \_\_\_\_\_.
13. How is the concept of young population defined? \_\_\_\_\_.
14. What country has instituted a one child policy? \_\_\_\_\_.

9. What factors contribute to these sparsely populated areas

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10. Starting with 100% estimate the percent of population each continent has (the total must equal 100 percent).

- a. North America \_\_\_\_ percent
- b. South America \_\_\_\_ percent
- c. Australia \_\_\_\_\_ percent
- d. Africa \_\_\_\_\_ percent
- e. Asia \_\_\_\_ percent;
- f. Europe \_\_\_\_ percent.

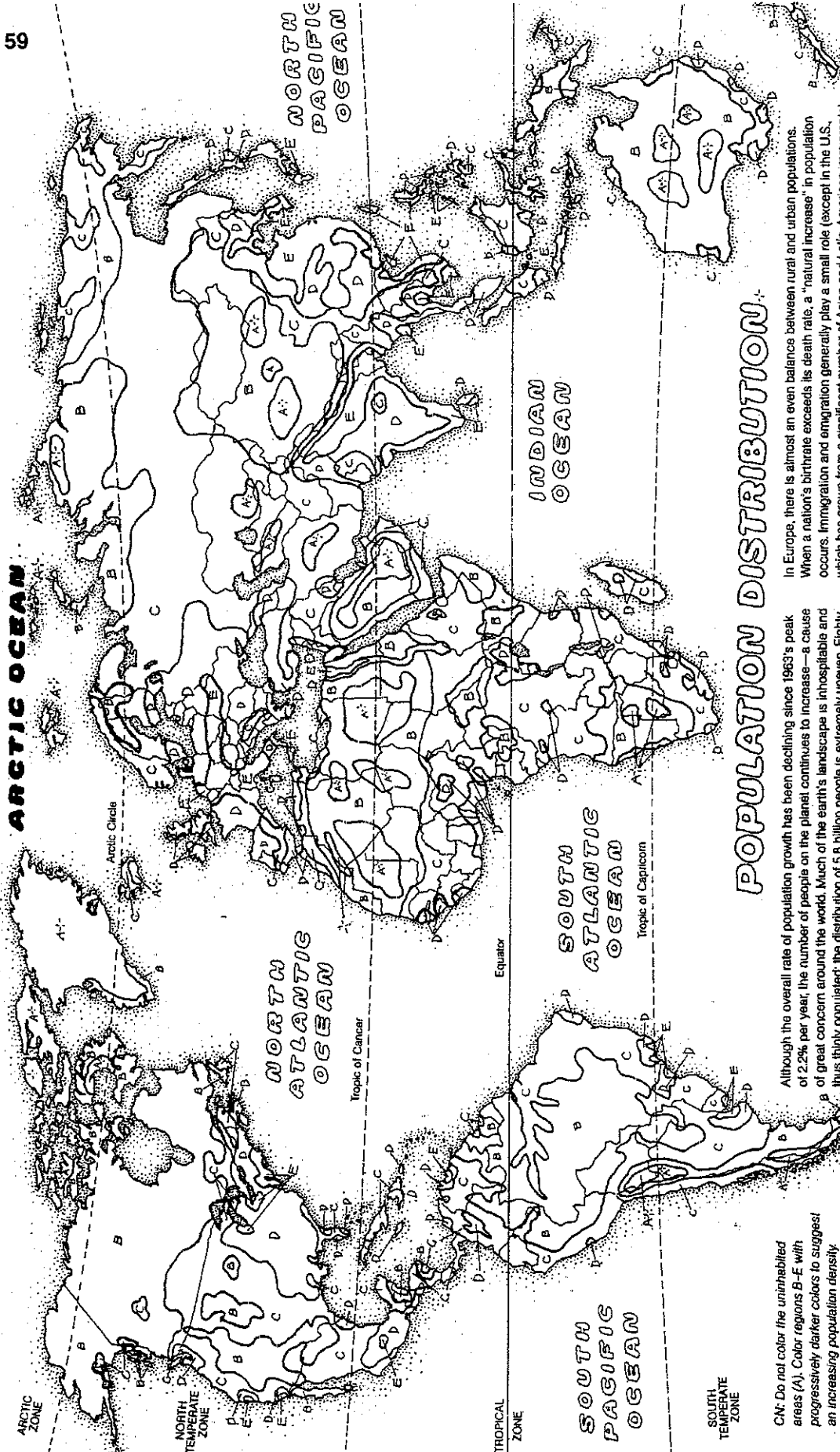
11. Using the map on page 88, how many metropolitan areas are there worldwide that have populations over 10 million? \_\_\_\_\_

12. List the Metropolitan Areas that have populations larger than 10 million.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_
- g. \_\_\_\_\_
- h. \_\_\_\_\_
- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- j. \_\_\_\_\_
- k. \_\_\_\_\_
- l. \_\_\_\_\_
- m. \_\_\_\_\_
- n. \_\_\_\_\_
- o. \_\_\_\_\_

**Interpreting the Map  
Population Density Map**

1. What is the most common color used? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does that color represent in population density? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the average population density for the United States? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the average population density for Canada? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the average population density for Greenland? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Describe the population clusters of the world
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
7. What factors contribute to the high population densities in these areas?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
8. What areas have little population?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
9. What factors contribute to these sparsely populated areas
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_



# POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

Although the overall rate of population growth has been declining since 1963's peak of 2.2% per year, the number of people on the planet continues to increase—a cause of great concern around the world. Much of the earth's landscape is inhospitable and thus thinly populated; the distribution of 5.8 billion people is extremely uneven. Eighty percent live in one of three clusters: (1) eastern, southeastern, and southern Asia, (2) Europe, or (3) central and eastern North America. The majority of these populations are located in the middle latitudes of the North Temperate Zone, a region generally favored by good climate and fertile soil.

Although many countries are densely populated, not all are "overpopulated," a condition in which there are more people than an area can support. For example, because of its high standard of living, the Netherlands, one of the most densely populated nations, is not considered overpopulated. Uneven population distribution exists within nations themselves. The greatest concentrations are found in the job-producing urban areas ("urban" means having over 20,000 residents). Forty percent of the world's population now resides in or near cities, and the trend is continuing. In the United States, the figure is over 75 percent. In the past, people congregated only in food-producing areas, and this is still true in much of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

In Europe, there is almost an even balance between rural and urban populations. When a nation's birthrate exceeds its death rate, a "natural increase" in population occurs. Immigration and emigration generally play a small role (except in the U.S., which has grown from a significant number of Asian and Latin-American immigrants). In most of the wealthier, industrialized nations of Europe, a low birthrate is causing a decrease in population. In Asia, Africa, and Latin America, an increasing birthrate (due to an increase in food production) and a declining death rate (due to medical intervention) has produced a population explosion, but even in those nations the rate of increase is declining. They all have "young" populations, with half the people under the age of 15. Farmers in the poorer nations depend upon their children to perform free labor and provide old-age assistance. Parents in industrialized nations do not normally need their children's labor, and raising a family can be quite expensive (especially the cost of higher education). The elderly are taken care of by pensions and social security. Until the developing nations raise their standard of living—which ironically depends on reducing population growth—poor people are unlikely to reduce the size of their families. China's rigid insistence on a one-child-per-family policy is a notable exception.

CA: Do not color the uninhabited areas (A). Color regions B-E with progressively darker colors to suggest an increasing population density.

**PEOPLE PER SQ. MI. / Km<sup>2</sup>**  
**UNINHABITED A:**  
**UNDER 2 / 1<sup>B</sup>**  
**2-60 / 1-25<sup>C</sup>**  
**60-250 / 25-100<sup>D</sup>**  
**OVER 250 / 100<sup>E</sup>**