Unit 2 Population and Migration

Just a few of the basics on Population.
Where is the world's population?

- Population is not evenly distributed on the planet
  - There are four areas of highest concentration:
    - East Asia (China, Japan)
    - South Asia (India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka)
    - Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines)
    - Europe
  - East Asia has always had the most people
There are places where people prefer to live

- Places where people have made permanent settlements are known as the “ecumene”.
- Most of the world’s population lives near water
  - Civilizations began near rivers (hearth)
    - Mesopotamia (Tigris and Euphrates Rivers)
    - Egypt (Nile River)
    - Pakistan/India (Indus River Valley)
    - Northern China (Huang He {Yellow} River)
- Most people live in the northern hemisphere (where the most land is)
- Most people live in the middle latitudes (20 degrees N/S of the equator)
- More than half of the people in the world live in Asia

(Ah...so THAT’S why those were on that map test!)
There are places people avoid

- They are outside the ecumene
- Usually extremes: too wet, too dry, too rocky, too high
- There are some exceptions:
  - Mexico City, Mexico and La Paz, Bolivia at high altitudes
  - Lima, Peru and Cairo, Egypt in deserts
  - Moscow, Dublin, Calgary in cold environments
- Man has adapted to his environment... and Man has altered his environment to suit his needs
- Despite what we may perceive, most of the land in the world is actually uninhabited (when thinking on a global scale)
Overpopulation

- Defined as not having enough resources to support a given population in a given area
- Think of it as a triangle:
  - People
  - Space
  - Resources to support them
- Any one of those points gets extremely out of whack for the other two to balance, and overpopulation occurs
- Overpopulation can occur where there are few people, lots of space, but scarce resources (Northern Canada)
- Don’t confuse overpopulation with simply being “crowded”.
- Singapore is crowded, is very small, but is able to support its population due to $.
Basic Terms to know

- **CBR**: Crude Birth Rate - total number of live births per 1,000 people in a population
- **CDR**: Crude Death Rate - total number of deaths per 1,000 people in a given population
- **IMR**: Infant Mortality Rate - The annual number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age for every 1,000 live births. Includes more than just deaths during birth; doesn't include abortion.
- **TFR**: Total Fertility Rate - the average number of children a woman will have throughout her childbearing years. Often indicates level of development in a country.
- **NIR**: Natural Increase Rate - The percentage growth of a population in a year \((\text{CBR}-\text{CDR})/10\), where birth and death rates are in per 1,000.
- **Dependency Ratio** - the ratio of the number of people under 15 and over 64 years to those 15-64 years of age. Assumes the too young/too old to work. Has multiple implications.

*Notice the “per 1,000” - so that any two countries can be compared*
Geographers use population pyramids to look at the age and sex of a given population, in a specific area, for a specific time period. It's a snapshot.

Studying them can reveal a lot about a country and its past, both recent and 80 years ago.

Less developed countries tend to have lots of babies and their “base” is wide.

More developed countries tend to have fewer babies and their pyramid is skinnier.

A population pyramid can quickly show if a place has a concentration of any age group, called a “cohort”, such as a college town, military town, elderly community, etc.
Population pyramid examples

[Diagrams showing population pyramids for 1950, 2009, and 2050, with male and female populations depicted by blue and orange bars, respectively.]
Population pyramids can vary from country to country AND within a country. A younger population will have a wider “base”, while an elderly population will be “top-heavy”. At a quick glance, college towns, military towns can be easily identified.

As a general rule, LDC’s have population pyramids with wide bases, MDC’s with straight sides or top-heavy.