

# Basics of Geography

Human Geography  
3 December 2014

## Rural and Urban Life

- Rural – living in the country or in small villages.
- Urban – living in towns and cities.
- In the 1700s and 1800s, as technology improved, people started working in factories. More people began to sell things. People started to leave farms for towns and cities.

## Rural Town, Biggs, California



## Rural Town, Crookwell, Australia



## Rural Town, El Salvador Border



## Population

- Population – the whole group of people in an area.
- Urban areas are growing quickly.
  - In 1960, about 25 out of every 100 people lived in an urban area.
  - In the 1990s, about 45 out of 100 people lived in urban areas.

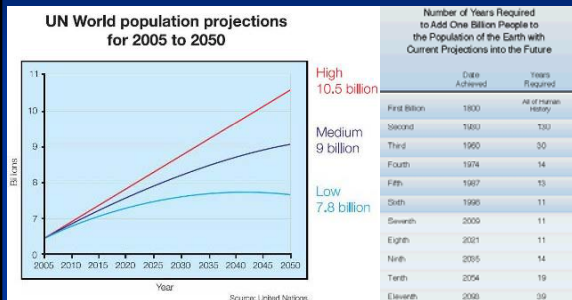
## Population

- Cities are more crowded, or have a greater population density, than rural areas.
  - More people live in a square mile in cities than in rural areas.

## Population

- Population growth is not a new problem, but:
  - The world is no longer producing enough food for everyone.
  - Natural resources are becoming more scarce.
  - There is less space available for waste.
  - Population is increasing fastest in some of the poorest parts of the world.
    - Hunger is replacing disease as a major killer of humans.

## Population



## Language

- Language is one of the most important features of a culture.
- There are thousands of different languages spoken in the world.
  - In Africa alone, there are more than 1,000 languages spoken.

## Language

- The world's languages can be divided into 13 main language families.
  - Languages in the same family are related.
  - The largest language family is Indo-European which includes English, German, Polish, and Russian.

## Languages

- The most spoken languages in the world:
  1. Mandarin (Chinese), 1.151 billion people
  2. English, 1 billion people
  3. Spanish, 500 million people
  4. Hindi, 490 million people
  5. Russian, 277 million people
  - Source: KryssTal, <http://www.kryssstal.com/spoken>
- Why do you think is English spoken by so many people around the world?

## Customs and Traditions

- Custom – a pattern of behavior followed by a whole group of people.
- Customs include:
  - Clothing
  - Hairstyles
  - Celebrations
  - Ceremonies
- Traditions – customs handed down from the past.

## Housing

- Everyone needs shelter and builds some type of housing.
- Housing is affected by the physical geography and by culture.
- Examples:
  - In the Arctic, houses may be built with animal skins and whale bones because trees do not grow there.
  - Mongolian nomads build houses that can be easily taken apart and put back together.

### Arctic Housing



St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, 1898  
House made of driftwood and animal skins.

### Arctic Housing



Inupiat man and his home made of whale bones and sod, circa 1933-34, Point Hope, Bering Strait, Alaska.

### Arctic Housing



Whale bone frame of an ancient Inuit hut estimated to be 500 to 2,000 years old.

### Mongolian House



## Religion

- Religion – an organized set of beliefs about a god or gods.
  - Most religions have rules about how a person should behave.
- Religion can affect family life, influence art, and how a government is created.
- Christianity and Islam are the two largest religions in the world.