



Distribution of Humans



Essential Question: How do historical references help to explain changes and trends in population?

Overview

ArcView showed the U.S. population growing between 1990 and 1999. Similar things are happening all over the Earth and have been for many years. Today, you will watch a video to see how the Earth's population has changed. The video shows human population growth from 1 AD to the projected population in 2030.

Materials

For each class:

- World population video

Procedure

1. Watch the video the first time to see the changes in global population. Notice the time period reference in the bottom right-hand corner.
2. Watch the video again and record your observations. For example, write down historical references and dates when major population changes occurred.

Class Discussion Questions

1. Around what year did you begin to notice a large increase in population growth?
2. What historical events, scientific advances, or other changes at that time may have contributed to the population increase?
3. Were there any points in the film when you noticed a slight decrease in the population? If so, in what part(s) of the world did you notice a decreasing population?
4. What historical events at that time may have contributed to the population decreases?
5. On the next page, there is a map of Earth's current population density. (Population density is the number of organisms in a particular population per square unit of area.) You will use the map in the next chapter when you study Earth resources. Based on the video, mark a few areas on the map where you think population is growing the fastest.
6. Answer the essential question: *How do historical references help to explain changes and trends in population?*