Where People Gather

Trace population patterns and the reasons behind them

SS24.HG.3 "Research spatial patterns of world populations to discern population distribution and explain reasons for these patterns."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the passage and number the three regional population patterns. For each pattern, underline one physical reason and circle one human reason that helps explain it.

Three Patterns of Settlement

1 At night, lights along Egypt's Nile River trace a narrow ribbon through a vast dry region. Most Egyptians live in the Nile Valley and Delta, while the surrounding Sahara has few residents. River water supports farms, homes, and businesses, and the delta's flat land makes building easier. Cairo, near the southern edge of the delta, draws people for work and services. This pattern does not mean every riverbank is crowded: flood risk and access to roads also shape where neighborhoods grow. A population pattern describes where people cluster, not just how many live in a country.

2 Farther east, Bangladesh has a dense population across much of its low-lying river plain. The Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers carry water and sediment that help create fertile farmland. Ports, factories, and the capital, Dhaka, add jobs that attract residents. Yet the same rivers can flood, and coastal storms can force families to move or rebuild. Fertile soil alone cannot explain the pattern: trade routes, employment, and decisions about flood protection affect where people settle. Population maps often show large clusters near major waterways, but the reasons for each cluster must be investigated.

3 Australia shows a different contrast. Much of its interior is arid and has few residents, while most Australians live in cities and towns near the coast. Coastal areas generally offer more reliable water, and port cities grew through trade and migration. Sydney and Melbourne also attract people with universities, services, and jobs. Still, dry land is not empty: mining towns and communities have long existed inland. Technology can bring water to some places, but supplying a large city in an arid area remains costly. The contrast shows how climate, economic opportunities, and past choices work together to shape settlement.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the population of the Nile Valley and Delta compare with that of the surrounding Sahara? Explain one physical reason for the difference.

2. Why is Bangladesh's river plain densely settled despite the risk of floods? Give one environmental reason and one economic reason.

3. Compare population patterns near Australia's coast and in its interior. Identify one physical and one human reason for the contrast.

4. Which two regions have large population clusters near rivers? Explain one physical reason they share and one different human reason that supports each cluster.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a new country with a wet coastal plain, a dry inland plateau, and a rail hub on the plateau. In five sentences, predict where most people would live and where a smaller population center might grow. Give at least three reasons, including one human decision, and describe one change that could alter your prediction.

Where People Gather

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the passage and number the three regional population patterns. For each pattern, underline one physical reason and circle one human reason that helps explain it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the population of the Nile Valley and Delta compare with that of the surrounding Sahara? Explain one physical reason for the difference.	**Most Egyptians live in the Nile Valley and Delta, while few live in the surrounding Sahara. The Nile provides water in an otherwise dry region.**
2	Why is Bangladesh's river plain densely settled despite the risk of floods? Give one environmental reason and one economic reason.	**The rivers provide water and sediment that help create fertile farmland. Ports and factories provide jobs.**
3	Compare population patterns near Australia's coast and in its interior. Identify one physical and one human reason for the contrast.	**Most Australians live near the coast, while the arid interior has few residents. Coastal areas generally have more reliable water, and coastal cities offer trade and jobs.**
4	Which two regions have large population clusters near rivers? Explain one physical reason they share and one different human reason that supports each cluster.	**Egypt's Nile Valley and Delta and Bangladesh's river plain both have river water that supports farming. Cairo draws residents for work and services, while Bangladesh's ports and factories provide jobs.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Most people would settle on the wet coastal plain, where water could support farms and households. Building a coastal port could bring trade and jobs, drawing more residents. The dry inland plateau would likely have fewer people because obtaining water would be harder. Still, a smaller town could grow at the plateau's rail hub as businesses serve shipments. If new water systems made reliable supplies affordable inland, the plateau could attract more residents.

Accept other passage-supported physical and human factors in Part 2. For Part 3, accept a different defensible distribution if the five-sentence response explains it with at least three reasons, includes a human decision, and identifies a change that could alter the pattern.