Where People Gather

Trace how population patterns change across regions.

6-9.WG.2.9 "Identify patterns of population distribution and growth in regions throughout the world and explain changes in these patterns that have occurred over time."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline where people are concentrated in each region, circle one cause of each pattern, and number one change over time in each region.

People, Place, and Change

1. Population distribution means where people live, and it is rarely even. In Egypt, millions live along the Nile River and in its delta, where river water supports farms and cities. Much of the land beyond this narrow green strip is desert, with far fewer residents. This pattern has deep roots: for thousands of years, people settled near the Nile to grow food. In the past century, Egypt's population has grown quickly. Cities such as Cairo have expanded, yet the Nile valley and delta still hold most residents.

2. In China, population is much denser in the east than in the high, dry west. Eastern plains, rivers, and ports have long supported farming and trade. Since the late 1970s, factories and other jobs have multiplied in many eastern cities. Millions of people have moved from rural areas to cities, especially near the coast. China's total population grew for many decades, but it began to decline in the 2020s. Even as the national total changed direction, migration increased the share of people living in cities.

3. On the Arabian Peninsula, many people live in cities along the Persian Gulf, while large inland deserts have few residents. Before oil became a major industry in the twentieth century, many Gulf settlements were much smaller. Oil income helped pay for roads, hospitals, and new jobs. Workers also arrived from other countries, adding to city growth. Desalination plants now turn seawater into drinking water for many coastal communities. Water supplies and jobs have made large cities possible in a dry region, but they have not made the population spread evenly across the peninsula.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where do most people in Egypt live, and why has this pattern lasted for thousands of years?

2. How does population density differ between eastern and western China, and what change has occurred in many eastern cities since the late 1970s?

3. How has the population pattern around the Persian Gulf changed since oil became a major industry? Give one cause of the change.

4. Compare change in Egypt and China: where has city growth occurred in each region, and what pattern remains in Egypt?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a region with small villages on hills and a broad floodplain where floods once kept settlement sparse. New flood barriers and a rail line now cross the plain. In four sentences, predict how the population pattern might change over 30 years and explain how both changes could affect where people live.

ANSWER KEY

Where People Gather

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.2.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline where people are concentrated in each region, circle one cause of each pattern, and number one change over time in each region. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where do most people in Egypt live, and why has this pattern lasted for thousands of years?	**Most live along the Nile River and in its delta because river water has long supported farming and settlements.**
2	How does population density differ between eastern and western China, and what change has occurred in many eastern cities since the late 1970s?	**The east is much denser than the west. Eastern cities have gained residents as jobs grew and people moved from rural areas.**
3	How has the population pattern around the Persian Gulf changed since oil became a major industry? Give one cause of the change.	**Gulf settlements have grown into larger cities. Oil-funded jobs and services, arriving workers, or desalinated water helped support that growth.**
4	Compare change in Egypt and China: where has city growth occurred in each region, and what pattern remains in Egypt?	**Cities such as Cairo have expanded in Egypt, while many cities in eastern China, especially near the coast, have gained residents. Egypt's Nile valley and delta still hold most of its residents.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At first, most people would live in the hill villages because the plain floods often. Over 30 years, the floodplain would likely gain residents and become more densely settled. Flood barriers would reduce flood damage and make building there less risky. The rail line would connect new homes and businesses to jobs, drawing more people to the plain.

Accept answers that accurately identify concentrated and sparsely populated areas and explain change using causes stated in the passage. For Your Turn, accept plausible predictions that address both flood barriers and the rail line.