Where People Settle

Compare population patterns and the reasons behind them

7.G.7 "Identify current trends and patterns of rural and urban population distribution in selected countries of Africa, Asia, and the Southwest Pacific, and analyze the causes for these patterns."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the current rural or urban pattern for each country, circle reasons that help explain where people live, and write 1 beside details showing urban growth. Use your marks to compare patterns across regions.

Villages, Cities, and Choices

1. In Nigeria, buses carry workers toward growing Lagos, while farmers tend fields far from the city. Nigeria has a slightly larger urban than rural population. Cities such as Lagos and Abuja attract people seeking jobs, schools, and medical care, though many Nigerians still live in farming communities. Across the Indian Ocean, India has the opposite balance: most people live in rural areas. Yet its cities keep growing as people leave villages for factory and service jobs. A growing city does not always mean most people in a country live in cities.

2. In Papua New Guinea, most people live in rural villages, often growing food on family land. Steep mountains and limited roads make some trips to towns slow and costly. Its urban areas are growing, but they still hold a small share of the population. Australia shows a different pattern in the Southwest Pacific. Most Australians live in cities, especially near the coast. The dry interior has fewer people, while coastal cities offer jobs, services, and transport links. Both countries have cities, but their people are spread very differently.

3. A country's population pattern can change without flipping from mostly rural to mostly urban. In India, a family may move to a city for work, adding to urban growth even while most Indians remain rural. In Papua New Guinea, better roads could make a town easier to reach, but mountains and village farming still shape where people live. Nigeria's busy cities and Australia's coastal cities also show that people gather where jobs and services are easier to find. To explain a pattern, look at both what draws people together and what keeps places apart.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do Nigeria's and India's current rural and urban patterns differ? What draws people to cities in both countries?

2. Compare where most people live in Papua New Guinea and Australia. Name one physical feature that helps explain each pattern.

3. India and Papua New Guinea are both mostly rural. How are their urban areas changing, and what different conditions shape where people live?

4. Nigeria and Australia both have urban majorities. How does the size of each urban majority differ, and why are many Australians concentrated near the coast?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a factory and a bus route open near a rural town in India. In three sentences, predict how this might change where people live nearby, explain why, and contrast your prediction with one current pattern in Australia.

ANSWER KEY

Where People Settle

GRADE 7 · 7.G.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the current rural or urban pattern for each country, circle reasons that help explain where people live, and write 1 beside details showing urban growth. Use your marks to compare patterns across regions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Nigeria's and India's current rural and urban patterns differ? What draws people to cities in both countries?	**Nigeria has a slightly larger urban than rural population, while most Indians live in rural areas. Jobs draw people to cities in both countries.**
2	Compare where most people live in Papua New Guinea and Australia. Name one physical feature that helps explain each pattern.	**Most people in Papua New Guinea live in rural villages; steep mountains make travel to towns difficult. Most Australians live in cities near the coast; the dry interior has fewer people.**
3	India and Papua New Guinea are both mostly rural. How are their urban areas changing, and what different conditions shape where people live?	**Urban areas are growing in both countries. City jobs draw people from Indian villages, while mountains, limited roads, and village farming shape settlement in Papua New Guinea.**
4	Nigeria and Australia both have urban majorities. How does the size of each urban majority differ, and why are many Australians concentrated near the coast?	**Nigeria's urban majority is slight, while most Australians live in cities. Australia's dry interior has fewer people, and coastal cities offer jobs, services, and transport links.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

More people might move to the Indian town, raising its urban population. Factory jobs and the bus route could make living there useful to workers. In Australia, most people already live in cities, especially near the coast.

Accept accurate comparisons supported by the passage. For Your Turn, accept a plausible prediction that connects the new jobs or bus route to settlement and correctly contrasts it with Australia's current pattern.