

# Earth's Human and Cultural Geography

## *Population Patterns in Places and Regions*



Mr. Swank - 2008

# Activate Your Thinking...

- When you ride the bus to school in the morning, how many other students are sharing the seat with you?
- If you said that you only share your seat with one or two other students – then consider yourself lucky!
- Talk briefly at your table about this.



- If you were a student in Tokyo, Japan your ride to school each morning would be much different...

# Getting to School or Work in Tokyo



- » Talk to your neighbor about what you see in this photo. What is happening? How are the people reacting?
- » Japan is smaller than California – but more than 125 million people live there and it is extremely crowded!



# Population Distribution

- The world's **population**, or total number of people, is spread unevenly over the Earth's surface.
- **Population distribution** describes how the population is spread out across the world.
- What do you think are some of the factors that affect where people live?



» Discuss with your table group – be prepared to share!



# Choosing a Place to Settle

- **Demographers** are scientists who study population.
- Where do you think that most major civilizations began?
  - If you guessed near water, then you are correct!
- What else might affect reasons for settling in a particular place?



# Unevenly Distributed

- 81 percent of the Earth's population lives in Asia, Europe, and North America. These continents only total about 53 percent of the world's land.

## WHY?

- ✓ Fertile soil
- ✓ Favorable landforms
- ✓ Plenty of fresh water
- ✓ Rich natural resources
  - ✓ Good Climates



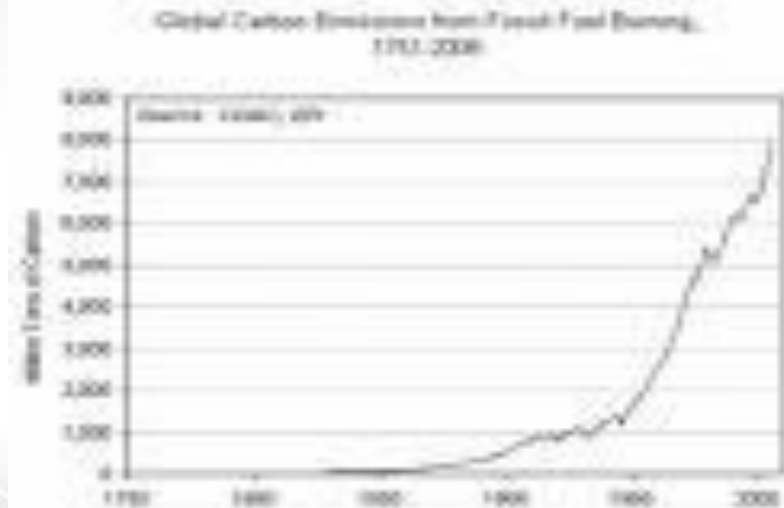
# What is Population Density?

- **Population Density** is the number of people who live in a square mile (or square kilometer)
- If a particular country has a high density, people are crowded together.
  - Japan has one of the highest population densities in the world
    - » In Tokyo, more than 25,000 people live in one square mile!
  - Canada has a very low population density
    - » It has about 8 people per square mile!
- ❖ On your slate please write down how you think demographers measure population density.



# Population Growth

- Earth's population is growing steadily.
  - Demographers identify population growth by comparing the **birth rate** (number of live births per 1,000 people) and the **death rate** (number of deaths per 1,000 people).
  - Life expectancy (average number of years that people live) is longer now today than it used to be.



# Population Growth Today

- Population growth occurs because the birth rate is higher than the death rate.
- The population is growing faster than ever due to...
  - New farming methods have greatly increased the world's food supply. Scientists have developed technology to protect crops from insects, grow crops with less water, and enrich soil for better growth.
  - Advancements in medicine and health. People are living longer than ever.

