***Human Populations***

Developed Countries—wealthy (high GDP per capita)

            --US, Canada, most of Europe, Australia, Japan

Developing Countries—poor (low GDP per capita)

            --most of Africa, much of Southeast Asia, parts of South and Central America

Population Distribution-- where people live

Population Growth Rate—how population changes

Population Distribution

--over 75% of the world’s population lives on 5% of the world’s land

--most people live near an ocean or a river that reaches the ocean

            --allows for travel, trade, irrigation

        Rio Grande—Boundary

        Ob River—Flows northward into Arctic Ocean

        Zambezi River—Water power

        Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers— Flood hazard

        Rocky Mountains—Create rain shadows on leeward slopes

        Himalayas—Block moisture to create steppes and deserts in Central Asia

--largest urban area:  Tokyo, Japan (over 26 million people)

--in North America, wealthy people tend to live in suburbs around cities

--in Central and South America, wealthy people tend to live in the cities while the areas around the cities are poor

            --most highly populated US cities:

                        --New York (Atlantic Ocean)

                        --Los Angeles (Pacific Ocean)

                        --Chicago (Great Lakes)

Economic Opportunities

--people are drawn to an area by economic opportunities

--highly populated areas often have an abundance of natural and capital resources

            --Oil:  Texas, Venezuela, NE Scotland

            --arable land:  United States

            --water

            --technology, transportation:  developed countries

Climates

--people are drawn to comfortable climates

            --most of world’s population lives between 10 and 55 N latitude—moderate climates (not too hot, not too cold, adequate precipitation)

Government Policies

--government policies welcome growth in some areas, discourage it in others

            --conflicts in some countries create refugees that flee to other areas

            --ethnic violence in the former Yugoslavia forced many to flee

            --many people come to the US because of its tolerant government policies

Urbanization

--urbanization:  more people moving to cities

            --over 50% of people in US live in cities

            --urban areas have a high population density (people per square mile)

--more urbanization usually equates to more wealth

            --Northern Virginia has become very urban, many jobs opportunities, wealthy

--Overurbanization:  if too many people move to a city too quickly, there aren’t enough jobs

Population Growth

--Birth Rate:  births per 1,000 people per year

--Death Rate:  deaths per 1,000 people per year

--when the birth rate is greater than the death rate, the population is growing

--rapid population growth happens more often in poor countries

Life Expectancy

--part of “standard of living”

--much higher in developed countries that can afford hygiene, medical treatment

Fertility Rate

--standard of living can be affected by the number of kids per family

--“fewer mouths to feed” means more money for other necessities and luxuries

--lower fertility rates are found in wealthier countries

--China has a law that families may only have one child

--India has tried unsuccessfully to lower birth rates; overpopulated

Infant Mortality Rate

--number of children per 1,000 who die before the age of one

--high in poorer countries

--lead to high birth rates

            --families have more kids because they don’t know how many will live

Gender Ratio (Male/Female)

--more males in world than females

--female infanticide:  some countries value males more than females; don’t care for or kill female babies

Age Distribution

--countries with better technology and medical resources will have more old people

**Push factors:  cause people to leave an area (“push them away”)**

        Overpopulation:  India, Bangladesh can’t adequately support their huge populations

        Religious persecution:  many people left Europe and came to US because of religious persecution

        Lack of job opportunities:  developing countries, rural areas

        Agricultural decline:  areas of Africa, Russia, etc. where land has been overused, loss of nutrients in soil

        Conflict:  ethnic civil wars in former Yugoslavia, African countries

        Political persecution:  former Yugoslavia, Middle East

        Natural hazards—Droughts, floods, famines, volcanic eruptions:  often more of a problem in developing countries

        Limits on personal freedom:  Middle East, China, etc.

        Environmental degradation:  pollution, human carelessness cause environment to be ruined

**Pull factors:  attract people to an area (“pull them in”)**

        Religion:  people are attracted to areas with many people that practice their religion (Middle East—Islam, Israel—Judaism, etc.)

        Economic opportunity:  many come to United States, Europe for better jobs, better life

        Land availability:  many people have moved to Western US because of cheap, available land

        Political freedom:  people attracted to US because of political and personal freedoms

        Ethnic and family ties:  people want to live around other people like themselves

        Arable land:  people attracted to areas that can support farming, food production