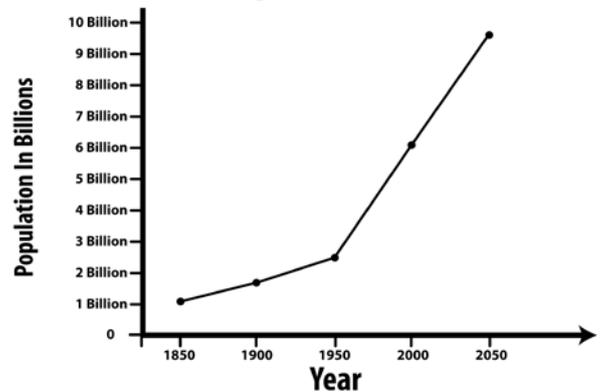


Global Population

Read the information, then complete the quiz and the word sleuth which follow.

When we talk about the world's population, the numbers are in billions (see graph). Some countries in our world like China and India already have populations over a billion people. On the other hand, the population in countries such as Iceland, Fiji and Qatar has not reached the million mark. Australia's population in 2012 was 22.5 million which was similar to Sri Lanka's population in 2012 (21.5 million). However Sri Lanka is 118 times smaller in land area than Australia. Look at the graph below. It shows you the population of nine countries in Asia in 2010. A census is a tool to find out the population of countries. In Australia the national census is conducted every 5 years.

World Population Growth



How The World's Population Is Distributed

If you look at a population graph of the world or a single country, you will notice that where people live is not spread evenly. Places where few people live are described as being sparsely populated and places where many people live are described as being densely populated. Some of the reasons for uneven population distribution include:

- some environments, such as the Antarctica, the volcanic islands of the Pacific Ocean region and desert regions are hazardous to live in because of the extremes in weather conditions;
- some areas of the Earth have low, flat land and a climate that is ideal for farming. For example: the Ganges Valley in India and the Mississippi Basin in the United States of America;
- areas rich in natural resources such as forests, coal and fisheries attract more people;
- work opportunities can draw people to a place. For example: migration to the United States and the European Union is high.

In 2013 it was estimated that 27.7% of people living in Australia were born overseas. This equated to around 6.4 million people. This was an increase from the previous year. People born in the UK are the largest group of overseas-born residents living in Australia, accounting for 5.3% of Australia's total population in 2013. This was followed by persons born in New Zealand (2.6%), China (1.8%), India (1.6%) and Vietnam (0.9%).

According to studies in 2013, Luxembourg had the highest overseas born population, followed by Switzerland, Australia Israel, New Zealand, Canada, Austria and Iceland.

Mexico, Turkey, Poland and Greece were listed as having the least overseas-born residents.

Population of 9 countries in Asia in 2010

