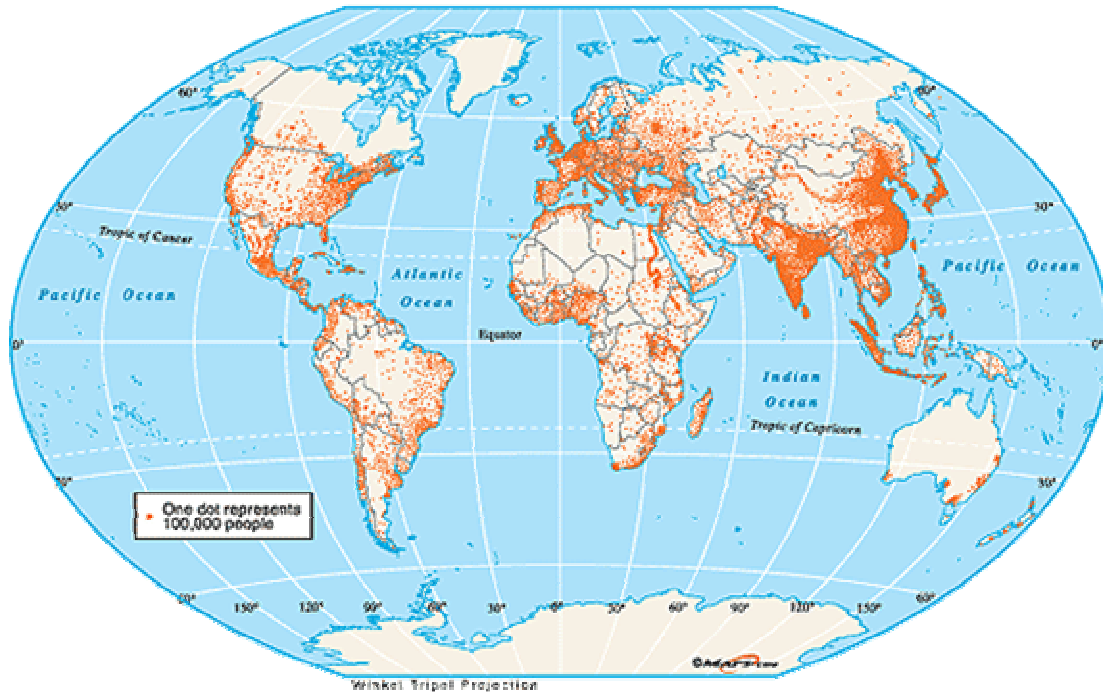


37. Population – distribution and density

Population distribution is very uneven (unequal). The highest concentration of people is in Euro-Asian continent (75%), America (13%), Africa (11%), Australia + Oceania (1%).

World Population Distribution, 2000



The best indicator displaying the distribution of population could be **population density**. It means the number of inhabitants living in 1 kilometre square (inh./km²). Average population density for the whole world is 40 inh./km². Slovakia = 110 inh./km².

Which areas of the world are the most densely populated?

Four main regions represent the most visible concentrations of people on the map:

- East Asia
- South Asia
- Europe
- East coast of the USA

50% of the world's population lives in these countries: China, India, Japan, Bangladesh, Pakistan.

50% of the world's population lives in *moderate climate* and at the *coast*. In USA and Europe, people live mainly in *urban areas* (75%). Most people here are attracted by job opportunities and developed industry to move from village to city.

Name some examples of other densely populated areas!

Reasons for concentration of population

In the past → people focused to **agriculture** => lived mainly along rivers, e.g. Nile, Euphrates.

Later, people started to migrate to **industrial areas**/towns, e.g. Central England, Ruhr region.

In coastal areas, there are many **harbours** => other reason to live there, e.g. Hamburg, Singapore

Some coastal areas are attractive **tourist** resorts, e.g. Florida, Côte d'Azur, Italy

Largest cities representing **metropolitan** areas pull people to move in, e.g. Paris, London

Which regions are the most sparsely populated?

Keywords

population distribution/density, urban/coastal areas, densely/sparsely populated regions