



North America: Population

Summary	Before the arrival of Europeans in the 1500s and 1600s, the population of North America consisted of Native American tribes in the United States, and the Aztec and Mayan civilisations in what is now Mexico. In the 1600s, Europeans quickly colonised much of North America. Now the indigenous peoples are far fewer and the majority of people have a European heritage.		
Location:	N/A	Vocabulary:	colonised: took control over indigenous: originally from a country populous: with a large population sparsely: with only a small number of people metropolitan: relating to a large city
Human Features:	Mexico City is the largest city, both in size and population. Its population is 21.3 million, which makes it the largest metropolitan area of the western hemisphere and the largest Spanish-speaking city in the world.	Physical Features:	N/A
Human Processes:	N/A	Physical Processes:	N/A
Techniques:	N/A	Human Processes:	N/A
Diversity:	<p>North America has an estimated population of 580 million. The most populous cities are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mexico City, Mexico 2. New York City, USA 3. Los Angeles, USA 4. Chicago, USA 5. Toronto, Canada <p>The northern half of North America – Canada and Greenland – is sparsely populated. This is largely due to the sub-polar and polar climate zones which makes agriculture, transport and living more difficult.</p>	Key Skills Covered:	Map Skills
Key Local Links:	N/A	Common Misconceptions:	





	Basic	Advancing	Deep
Diversity	<p>Define the term 'most populous'.</p> <p>Locate and label on a map the most populous cities of North America.</p> <p>Define the term 'sparsely populated'.</p> <p>Locate and label on a map the most sparsely populated areas of North America.</p> <p>Define the term 'population density'.</p> <p>Describe the population density of North America.</p>	<p>Compare and contrast the populations of the most and least populous places in North America.</p>	<p>Investigate the differences between the terms 'metropolitan' and 'cosmopolitan'.</p>
Human Features	<p>Describe the changes in the population of North America from the 1500s to the 1600s.</p> <p>Define the word 'colonise'.</p> <p>Define the word 'indigenous'.</p> <p>Define the word 'metropolitan'.</p>	<p>Graph information about the population of the ten most populous cities in North America.</p> <p>Compare and contrast the housing for a typical person* in Mexico City and in New York City. (*a typical person is someone who has the average income compared with others living in that location).</p>	<p>Investigate the phrase 'primate city'.</p>