

East Asia: Population Facts and Figures

Purpose: To explore population data from China, Japan, North Korea, and South Korea.

Target Grade Levels: This lesson could be used in the middle grades or in high school.

Essential questions:

1. Where do these East Asian countries rank in world population data?
2. What are the largest cities in these East Asian countries and where do they rank in world population data?
3. What are the largest metropolitan areas in the world and how many of the largest metropolitan areas are located in these East Asian countries?
4. For large population centers, what are some issues that arise due to population density? How have East Asian cities dealt with these issues?
5. The populations of Japan and Korea have decreased in recent years. Why has this happened? Is this a phenomenon of highly industrialized societies?

Rationale: By looking at population data, students gain a better understanding of how many people live in these East Asian countries. The populations of China, Japan, North Korea, and South Korea represent nearly one-fourth of the world's total population. Students will also explore issues associated with large population centers.

Materials: Internet

Activities:

1. Have the class brainstorm a list of the world's top population centers.
2. Access the website www.citypopulation.de for information regarding population.
3. Have students complete the activity worksheet regarding population information.

Assessment: A student summary is included as part of the worksheet. After filling out the summary, a brief class discussion could be held to synthesize what the students have learned.

Grade Adaptation: In order to modify this lesson for lower grades, the teacher could use a computer that can be projected for the whole class to see and conduct a discussion rather than having students complete the worksheet. This website is interactive, so teachers can quickly show a map to find the location of a city.

ACTIVITY WORKSHEET

Access the website www.citypopulation.de. This website provides population data for countries, cities, and metropolitan areas (agglomerations). Select Population Statistics. Select All Countries. The population of all world countries will be displayed alphabetically. Click on the top of the population column to sort the population from largest to smallest.

Complete the following information:

	Population	Rank
China	_____	_____
Japan	_____	_____
North Korea	_____	_____
South Korea	_____	_____

Use the website to find the following information:

Identify the top 5 most populous cities in China:

City	Population

Identify the top 5 most populous cities in Japan:

City	Population

Identify the top 5 most populous cities in North or South Korea:

City	Population

Identify the top 10 largest population agglomerations of the world:

Agglomeration	Country	Population

For each country, list how many cities are represented in the population agglomeration chart. This chart lists all metropolitan areas of 1,000,000 or higher in the world. There are 438 such areas listed.

Number of cities listed

China _____

Japan _____

North Korea _____

South Korea _____

Issues related to population density:

Identify several issues related to population density.

In what ways are large East Asian population centers dealing with issues related to high population density?

Summary Questions:

What information did you find most interesting?

What information surprised you the most?

What questions about population information should be added to this activity?