Homework #3

Read Chapter 4 (pages 66 - 70). Answer these questions on notebook paper.

1. What is culture? (Write the definition from the book.)

The 8 elements of culture are:

- Family structure
- Language
- Religion
- Ethnicity
- Media
- Aesthetics
- Government
- Economy

2. What is a nuclear family?
3. Regarding family, what three things does every balanced society do?
4. What is a cultural hearth?
5. In your opinion, why is language an important element for a person's culture?
6. Why is religion a key to continuing culture?
7. Google: Write a list of at least 5 different ethnicities.
8. What is cultural diffusion?
9. Google: Look up the definition of "aesthetics".

Read Chapter 4 (pages 73 - 87). Answer these questions on notebook paper.

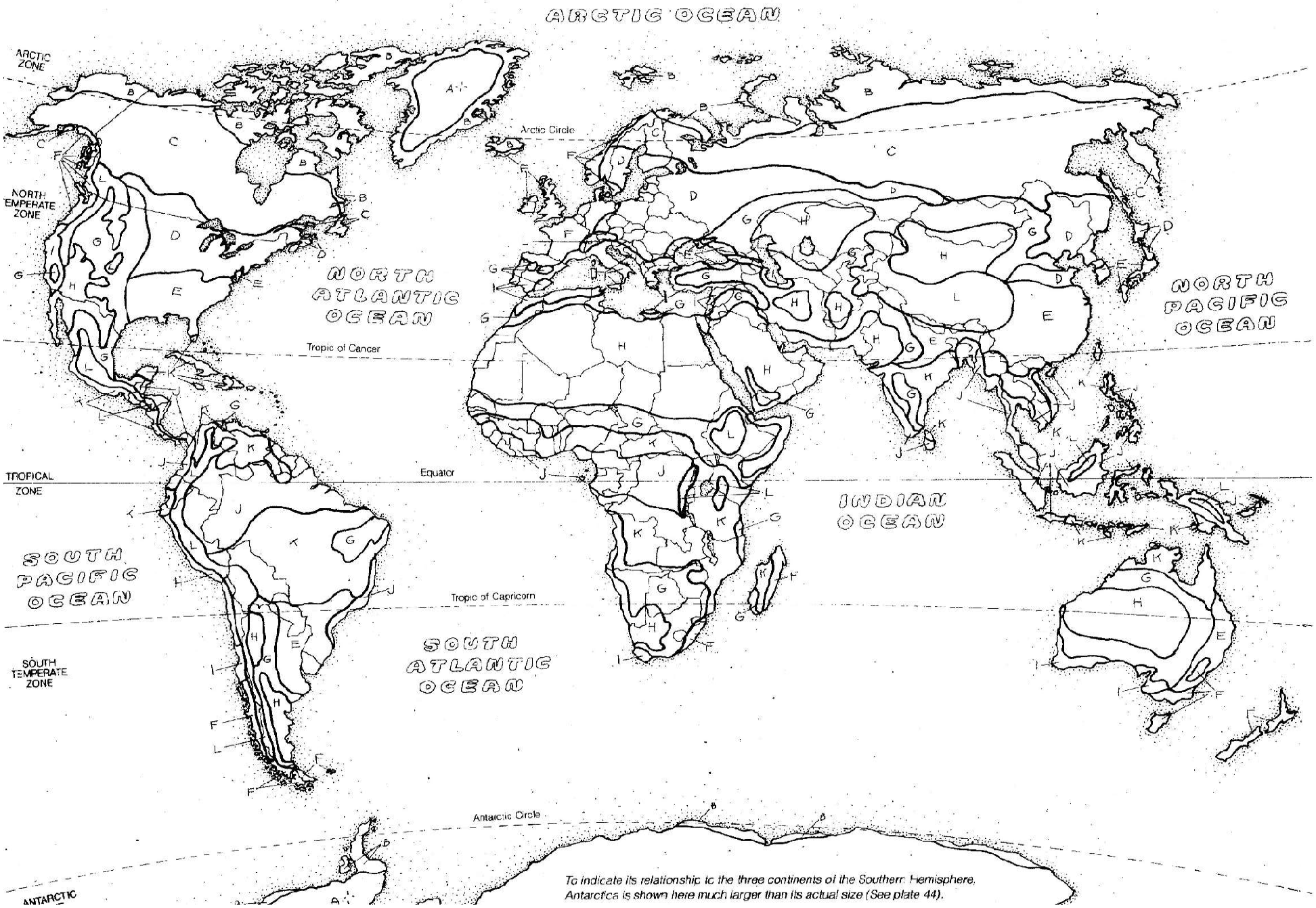
10. What is an autocracy?
11. What is the difference between an absolute monarchy and a constitutional monarchy?
12. What is a theocracy?
13. What is an oligarchy?
14. What is the difference between a democracy and a republic?
15. Which are more stable: natural borders or geometric borders?
16. Write the definition of capitalism from the book.
17. Write the definition of socialism from the book.
18. What is the gross domestic product (GDP)?
19. Google: What does "per capita" mean?
20. Thinking Question: Explain why comparing the GDP per capita of countries is a more meaningful measurement than just comparing their overall GDP.
21. Why do landlocked (no water access) have lower per capita GDPs?
22. List three advantages of international trade.
23. What is "population density"?

Read the information on Climate Zones (see the following pages). Color the labeled areas with colored pencils, and follow these instructions:

- Color the regions and the name of the region the same color. Only color the regions that are labeled with a letter. Do not color everything in the picture.

Read the information on Residents Per (see the following pages). Color the labeled areas with colored pencils, and follow these instructions:

- Color region B lightly. Color region C slightly darker. Use slightly darker colors for each subsequent region. The darkest region should be region E. Remember to color the region names on the page with text and read the information on this sheet.



To indicate its relationship to the three continents of the Southern Hemisphere, Antarctica is shown here much larger than its actual size (See plate 44).

WORLD CLIMATE REGIONS

CN: (1) Use light colors on this and the following World Thematic Plates, so that whatever region you color, the underlying boundaries of the different nations within that region will continue to show. This will enable you to test your recall by identifying the various nations. Remember that these regional lines are arbitrarily drawn; climate changes do not occur so abruptly. (2) Do not color any lakes. (3) Do not color the names of the oceans. (4) You may wish to color one climate region on all continents first, or you may prefer to color all the regions on one continent before going on to the next continent. (5) Note that the ice-cap climates (A) are left uncolored.

CLIMATE ZONES

POLAR

ICE CAP A

POLAR (TUNDRA) B

TEMPERATE

SUBPOLAR (SUBARCTIC) C

HUMID / CONTINENTAL D

HUMID / SUBTROPICAL E

MOIST / COASTAL F

STEPPE G

DESERT H

MEDITERRANEAN I

TROPICAL

RAINFOREST J

WET & DRY SAVANNA K

MOUNTAIN L

Climate is weather considered over a long period of time. Weather is the short-term condition of the atmosphere. The atmosphere is a layer of air 100 mi. (160 km) thick, surrounding the earth. Weather only occurs in the warmer and denser bottom 6 mi. (9.6 km) of the atmosphere. Air temperature, precipitation, wind velocity, air pressure, cloudiness, and humidity are the elements by which weather is measured.

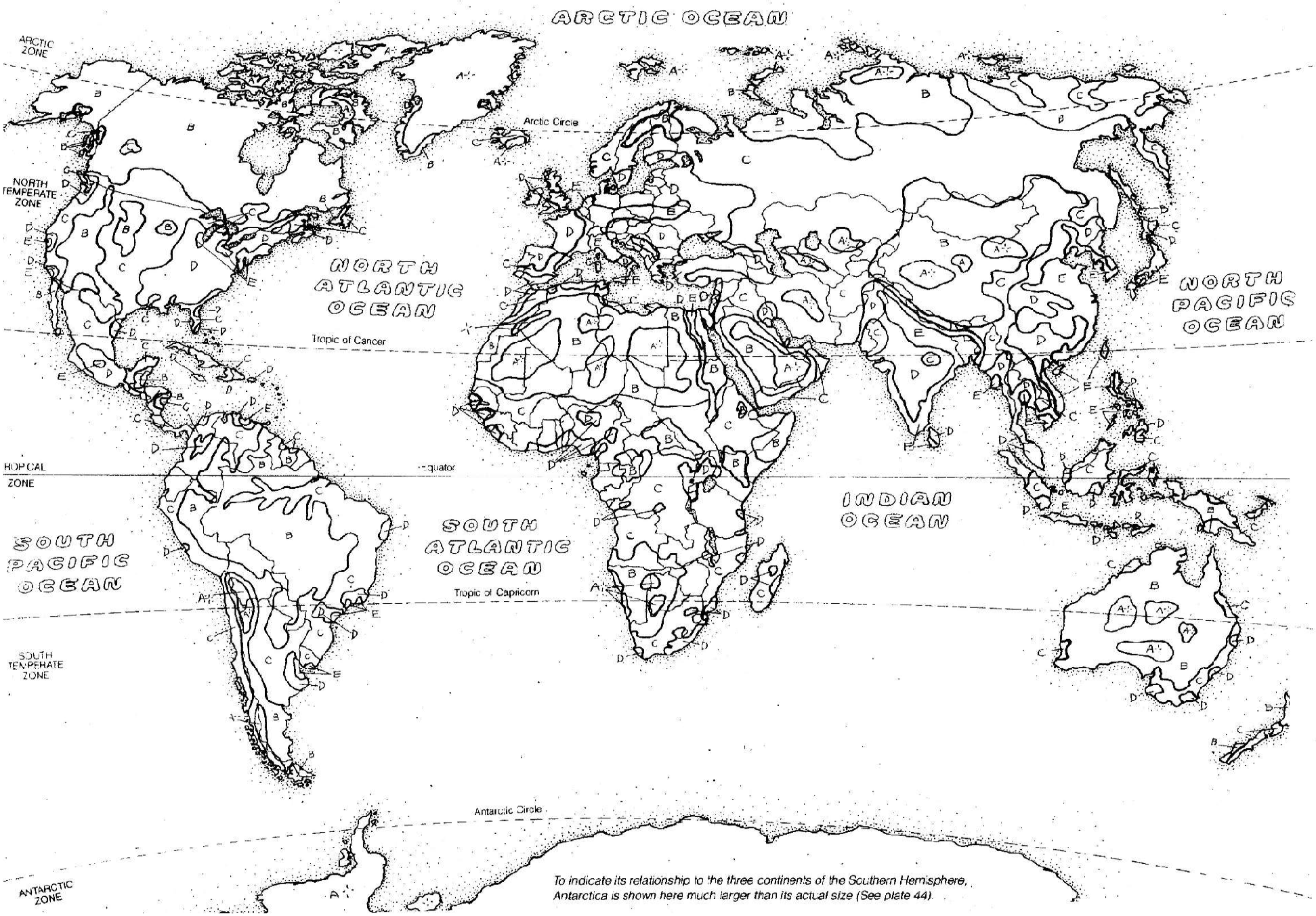
The uneven heating of the Earth's surface is the cause of all weather activity. These variations in the amount of radiation received from the Sun largely depend on latitudinal position. In the *Tropics*, the Sun stays more or less overhead, creating eternal summer. The intense heat from the Sun's direct rays causes ocean water to evaporate (warm air absorbs the most moisture), and the tropics receive the heaviest rainfall. The amount of sunlight in the *Temperate Zones* varies according to season (see the diagram on p. 41). The resulting fluctuation in heat creates the most variable weather on the planet. The Sun's rays are the least direct in the *Polar Regions*, and the result is almost constantly cold weather.

POLAR ZONES. *Ice cap* is a below-freezing climate found in most of Greenland and all of Antarctica. The air is too cold to hold much moisture, the only precipitation is in the form of light snow. Dryness and the absence of plants—almost nothing can grow on ice—give these regions a true desert status. *Polar* or *Tundra* climate is always cold, although some regions experience brief, chilly summers of above-freezing temperatures. There is little precipitation. In the summer the upper inches of permafrost thaw. Cold air holds little moisture, so evaporation is slow and the environment becomes wet and marshy. Wildflowers and low-growing plants make their appearance during this brief period.

TEMPERATE ZONES. *Subpolar* or *Subarctic* climate is characterized by long, very cold winters and short, cool summers. Precipitation is light to moderate, and because of low evaporation, the flatter areas, with poor drainage, stay wet during the summer months. Coniferous trees cover parts of the landscape, and limited farming is possible. This is the climate of most of Canada and northern Russia. *Humid/continental* climate is characterized by wide extremes in temperature (particularly in the interior regions of broad continents). Summers are normally mild but also can get quite hot; winters are subject to periods of severe cold. *Continental climate* has moderate precipitation, most of it falling during the warm summer. *Humid/subtropical climate* has warm to hot summers and cool to cold winters and is subject to frequent cyclonic storms and highly variable weather. Rainfall is moderate, but summers can be very wet. These regions are found on the eastern sides of continents and in the lower latitudes of the Temperate Zone: the southeastern United States, southeastern South America, southern Japan, and eastern China and Australia. *Moist/coastal*, also called maritime or marine west coast climate, is moderately wet and is characterized by frequent cloudiness and light rain. Summers are milder and winters are less severe than in other regions within the same latitudes. This climate is generally found on the west coasts of continents and in the upper latitudes of the Temperate Zone: western Europe, the British Isles, Canada, and the American Northwest. In the southern Hemisphere it is found in southern Chile, southeastern Africa and Australia, and New Zealand. *Steppe* is a dry climate with hot summers; it can have very cold winters, depending upon the latitude. There is a wide variation between day and evening temperatures. These transitional regions between deserts and the moister climates often are deprived of precipitation by adjacent mountain ranges. Steppes are found in large areas of the American West and Mexico, across the widest part of Africa (south of the Sahara), in southcentral Asia, and encircling the western desert in Australia. *Desert* climates have very limited precipitation, which is likely to fall in isolated downpours followed by long dry periods. The deserts of the higher temperate latitudes can experience very cold winters; those further to the south, such as the enormous Sahara, are hot all year long. A desert is a barren region with little or no rainfall. It is not necessarily sandy—only 20% of the Sahara is sandy. Some of the tropical deserts, such as those along the coasts of Peru, Chile, and Namibia, can go for many years without measurable rainfall. But since they are adjacent to the coast, these unusual deserts are often shrouded in fog. They are deprived of rain by cold ocean currents that cool the atmosphere, wringing moisture from the clouds before they can reach land. *Mediterranean* regions take their name from the climate in lands surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, which have very warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters. This climate is also found along parts of the west coasts of continents in the lower temperate latitudes: Central and Southern California, central Chile, the Cape Town region of South Africa, and the southern coast of Australia. These climates of moderate temperatures, low humidity, and plentiful sunshine are generally viewed as very desirable places to live. Native trees and shrubs in these regions can survive long dry periods.

TROPICAL ZONE. *Rainforest* temperatures are uniformly warm throughout the year. In the very humid rainforest climate, precipitation is heavy, varying from the Amazon Basin's almost daily afternoon downpours to the seasonal monsoons of Southeast Asia. Other wet Equatorial areas are the Caribbean coast of Central America and the west coast of Africa. This hot and wet environment creates the lushest vegetation on earth. *Wet and dry savanna* climates are found in the tropics and are at times hotter than the rainforest. Rainfall is heavy only during the brief wet season. For the remainder of the year the savanna is dry. This climate characterizes large regions surrounding the rainforests of central Africa and the Amazon Basin in South America.

MOUNTAIN REGIONS. *Mountain climates* can be found in any latitude. They are the result of cold or cool temperatures found in high altitudes. Mountains are generally wetter and windier than surrounding environments, and many are permanently covered by snow and ice. Mountain climates are found in northwestern North America, central Mexico, the Andes in South America, the Tibetan Plateau and central Asia, and regions of Ethiopia and Eastern Africa.



To indicate its relationship to the three continents of the Southern Hemisphere, Antarctica is shown here much larger than its actual size (See plate 44).

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

CN: (1) Do not color the uninhabited areas (A). After coloring region B with a light color, use a slightly darker color for C, and still slightly darker colors for D and E, to suggest an increasing density of population. Don't go so dark that you can no longer see national boundaries.

RESIDENTS PER

SQUARE MILE	SQUARE KILOMETER
UNINHABITED A	
UNDER 2 B	UNDER 1 B
2-60 C	1-25 C
60-250 D	25-100 D
OVER 250 E	OVER 100 E

Although the overall rate of population growth has been declining since 1963's peak of 2.2% per year, the number of people on the planet continues to increase—a cause of great concern around the world. Much of the earth's landscape is inhospitable and thus thinly populated; the distribution of 6.2 billion people is extremely uneven. Eighty percent live in one of three clusters: (1) eastern, southeastern, and southern Asia, (2) Europe, or (3) central and eastern North America. The majority of these populations are located in the middle latitudes of the North Temperate Zone, a region generally favored by good climate and fertile soil.

Although many countries are densely populated, not all are "overpopulated," a condition in which there are more people than an area can support. For example, because of its high standard of living, the Netherlands, one of the most densely populated nations, is not overpopulated. Uneven population distribution exists within nations themselves.

The greatest concentrations are found in the job-producing urban areas ("urban" means having over 20,000 residents). Close to fifty percent of the world's population now resides in or near cities, and the trend is continuing. In the United States, the figure is over 75 percent. In the past, people congregated only in food-producing areas, and this is still true in much of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. In Europe, there is almost an even balance between rural and urban populations. When a nation's birthrate exceeds its death rate, a "natural increase" in population occurs. Immigration and emigration generally play a small role (except in the U.S., which has grown from the significant number of Asian and Latin-American immigrants).

In most of the wealthier, industrialized nations of Europe, a low birthrate is causing a decrease in population. In Asia, Africa, and Latin America, an increasing birthrate (due to an increase in food production) and a declining death rate (due to medical intervention) has produced a population explosion, but even in those nations the rate of increase is declining. They all have "young" populations, with half the people under the age of 15. Farmers in the poorer nations depend upon their children to perform free labor and provide old-age assistance. Parents in industrialized nations do not normally need their children's labor, and raising a family can be quite expensive (especially the cost of higher education). The elderly are taken care of by pensions and social security.

Until the developing nations raise their standard of living—which ironically depends on reducing population growth—poor people are unlikely to reduce the size of their families. China's one-child-per-family policy is a notable exception among the developing nations.