WHAT ARE TODAY'S SETTLEMENT TRENDS?

When you think of trends, what do you think of? Trends are patterns of how something is changing. Are there any trends that you have observed? In this chapter we will examine settlement trends, which are patterns in how people are settling around the world.

INCREASED GLOBAL MIGRATION

Today, there is more migration of people from place to place than ever before. In 2013, there were 232 million migrants worldwide. The number of migrants is expected to grow to 405 million by 2050.

Migration is caused by pull factors and push factors. **Pull factors** are attractions that draw people to new areas. People may move to reunite with family members. They may move to look for better education or higher-paying jobs. **Push factors** are forces that drive people from their homes to search for new places to live. Environmental migrants are one example of people moving because of push factors. They are escaping drought or the loss of natural resources near their homes. Other kinds of migrants may be escaping poverty, religious persecution, conflict, or war.

In 2013, over one-quarter of the most educated people from several countries in Central America, the Caribbean, and Africa had moved to a different country, most often in a more developed nation. For example, Guyana's migration rate is among the highest in the world. More than 55 percent of its population—and 85 percent of its university-educated citizens—have left. Many moved to find jobs with higher salaries, a pull factor. But many also left because they opposed government policies at home, a push factor (**Figure 3.1**).

pull factor a social, political, economic, or environmental attraction that draws migrants to an area

push factor a social, political, economic, or environmental force that drives migrants away from an area

FIGURE 3.1 In 2001, protestors marched in Georgetown, Guyana, to demonstrate their opposition to racial discrimination by the government.

I wonder what happens to countries when so many skilled people leave?

CREATING A FLOW MAP

A flow map shows the movement of people or goods using arrows. The arrows begin at the source of the movement and end at the destination. Sometimes the width of the arrows shows the quantity of movement. By reading a flow map, you can determine the distance, direction, and quantity of the movement.

Flow maps are used to show patterns, such as which world regions send oil to the United States. They are also used to show spatial significance, such as which urban areas receive more migrants. **Figure 3.2** shows the flow of refugees out of Syria during the Syrian Civil War. The map shows refugee movements between January 2012 and November 2014.

Figure 3.3 lists numbers of immigrants to Canada from different world regions in 2012. Use the data to make a flow map.

Syrian Civil War Refugee Migration, 2012 to 2014

Number of Refugees
- more than 1 000 000
- 500 000–1 000 000
- 200 000–499 999
- fewer than 200 000

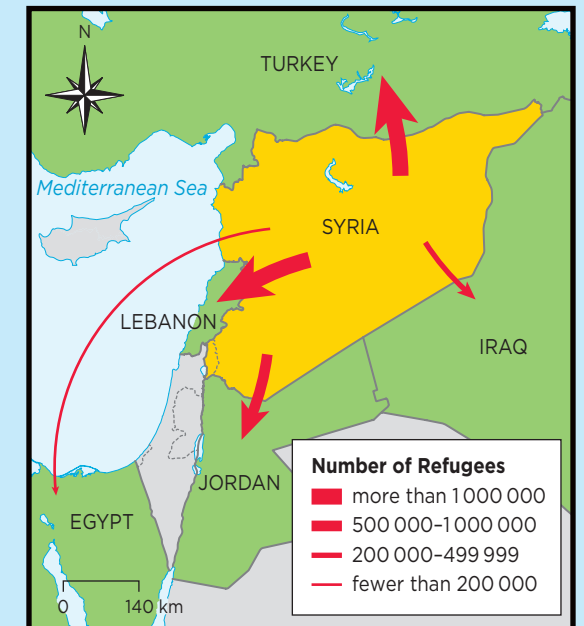FIGURE 3.2 Flow map showing the number of Syrian war refugees in several countries using data collected in November 2014

Region of Origin	Number of Immigrants
United States	9 414
Europe and the United Kingdom	35 830
Central and South America	26 865
Africa and the Middle East	56 061
Asia and the Pacific	129 593

FIGURE 3.3 Number of immigrants to Canada in 2012 by region of origin

CREATING A FLOW MAP

STEP 1 Group the data into categories. For example, more than 50 000, 25 001 to 50 000, 10 001 to 25 000, and fewer than 10 000.

STEP 2 Choose a different arrow thickness to represent each category. The wider the arrow, the greater the quantity of immigrants it represents.

STEP 3 Create a legend for your categories on an outline map of the world.

STEP 4 Draw the arrows. For example, the number of immigrants from the United States is 6013. It is in the "fewer than 10 000" category. Draw an arrow from a central area in the country of origin, the United States, to a central area in the country of destination, Canada. Match the thickness of the arrow to the thickness for this category in your legend. Add an arrowhead that points to Canada.

STEP 5 Draw arrows for the remaining four regions.

STEP 6 Add a title, a north arrow, a scale, and labels to your map.

MIGRATION TO URBAN AREAS

Whether people are migrating from country to country or within a country, they usually move from a rural area to an urban area. The flow map in **Figure 3.4** shows migration from 20 countries around the world to Sydney, Australia. Sydney has the highest population of all cities in Australia. Most of the migrants arriving in Sydney were looking for work or reuniting with family members who were already there. A small number were refugees.

As you read in Chapter 1, urbanization began during the Industrial Revolution. Urbanization is the increase in the percentage of people living and working in urban areas. It continues today, especially in countries that have recently become more developed, or wealthier, such as Brazil. The percentage of people living in cities in Brazil went from 74 percent in 1990 to 85 percent in 2013.

Developing countries have limited access to technology, education, and goods and services. More people in developing countries migrate from rural areas to urban areas than they do in more developed countries. Why? More people live in rural areas in developing countries. Also, people migrate to cities because of pull factors: they hope that life will be better there. People who live in cities usually have better access to clean water and services, such as schools, healthcare, and electricity. They are generally healthier and have higher incomes than people who live in rural areas.

urbanization the process by which the percentage of people living in urban areas increases

more developed country a wealthier country with access to technology and education, with generally high life expectancy

developing country a less wealthy country with limited access to technology and education, with generally low life expectancy

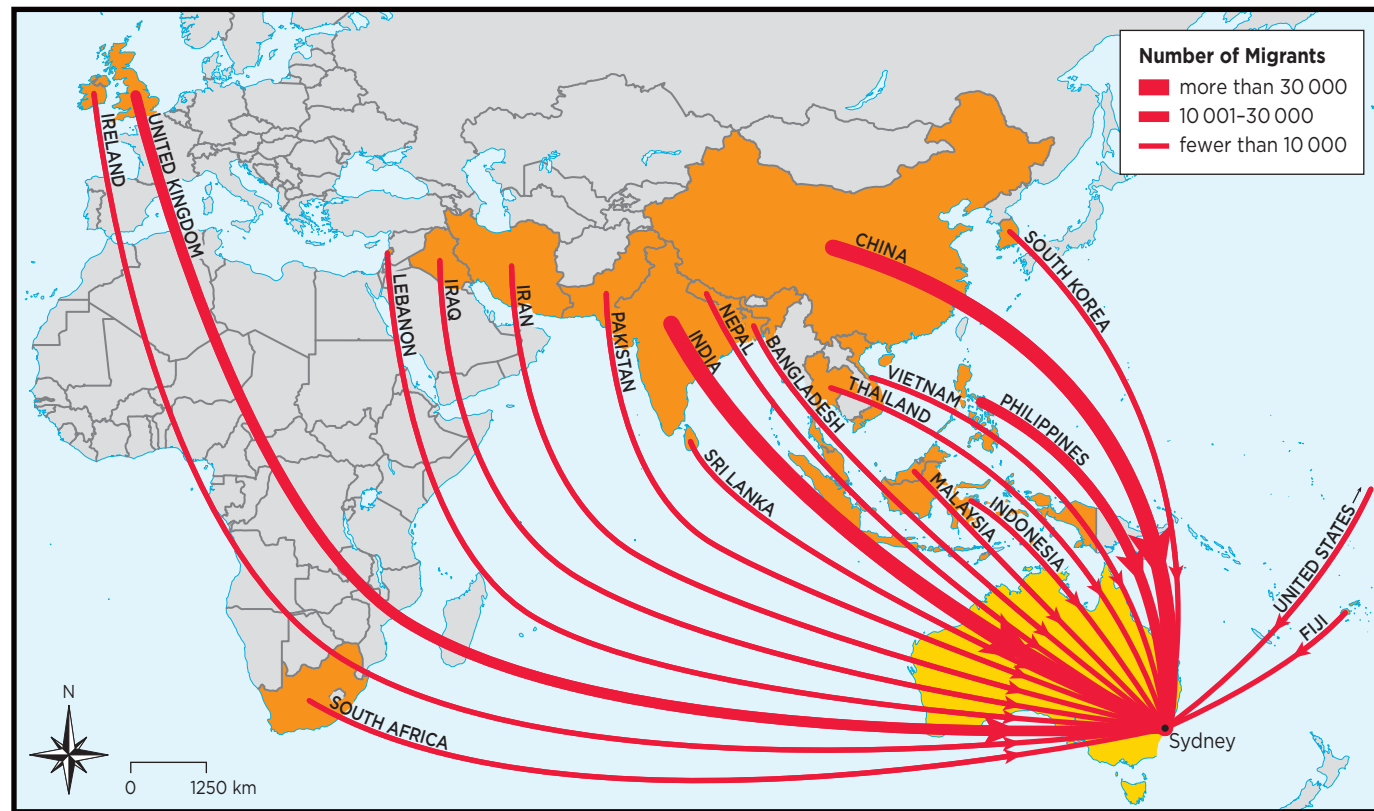### Migrant Flow to Sydney, Australia, 2006–2011

FIGURE 3.4 This map shows the top 20 source countries for migration to Sydney, Australia. What might be the pull factors that caused this migration?

INCREASING URBAN POPULATIONS WORLDWIDE

The world's urban population is increasing (**Figure 3.5**). This trend is expected to continue. In 2014, there were 3.9 billion urban dwellers. By 2045, there will be 6 billion people living in cities. According to the UN, two-thirds of the world's population will live in urban areas by 2050.

The populations of individual cities are increasing. Some cities are now **megacities**—they have populations of more than 10 million people. Did you know that, in 1990, there were 10 megacities in the world, and in 2014, there were 28? The three largest megacities are Tokyo, Japan, with a population of 38 million; Delhi, India, with a population of 25 million; and Shanghai, China, with a population of 23 million. This shift toward urban living creates both opportunities and challenges in urban areas.
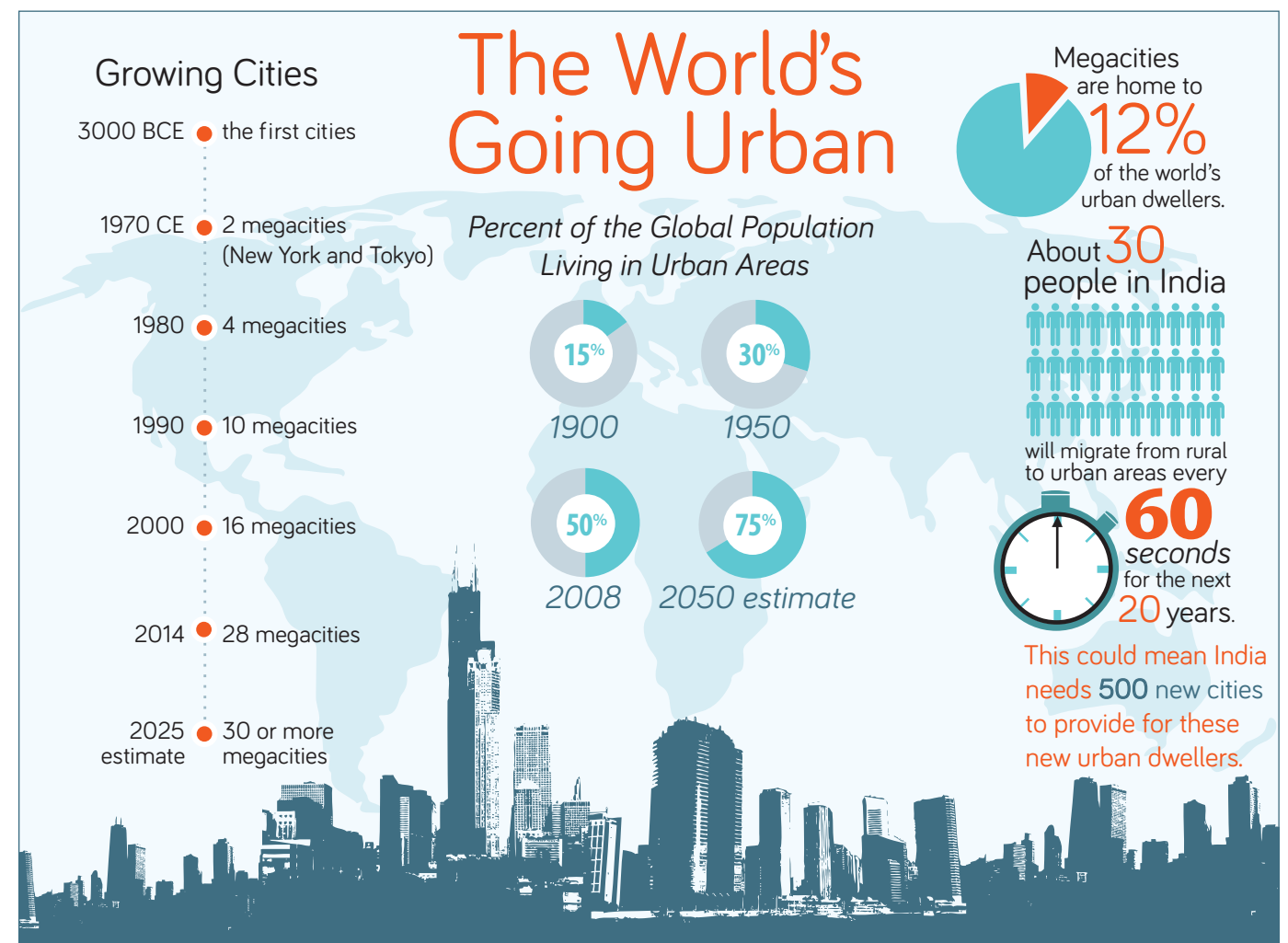
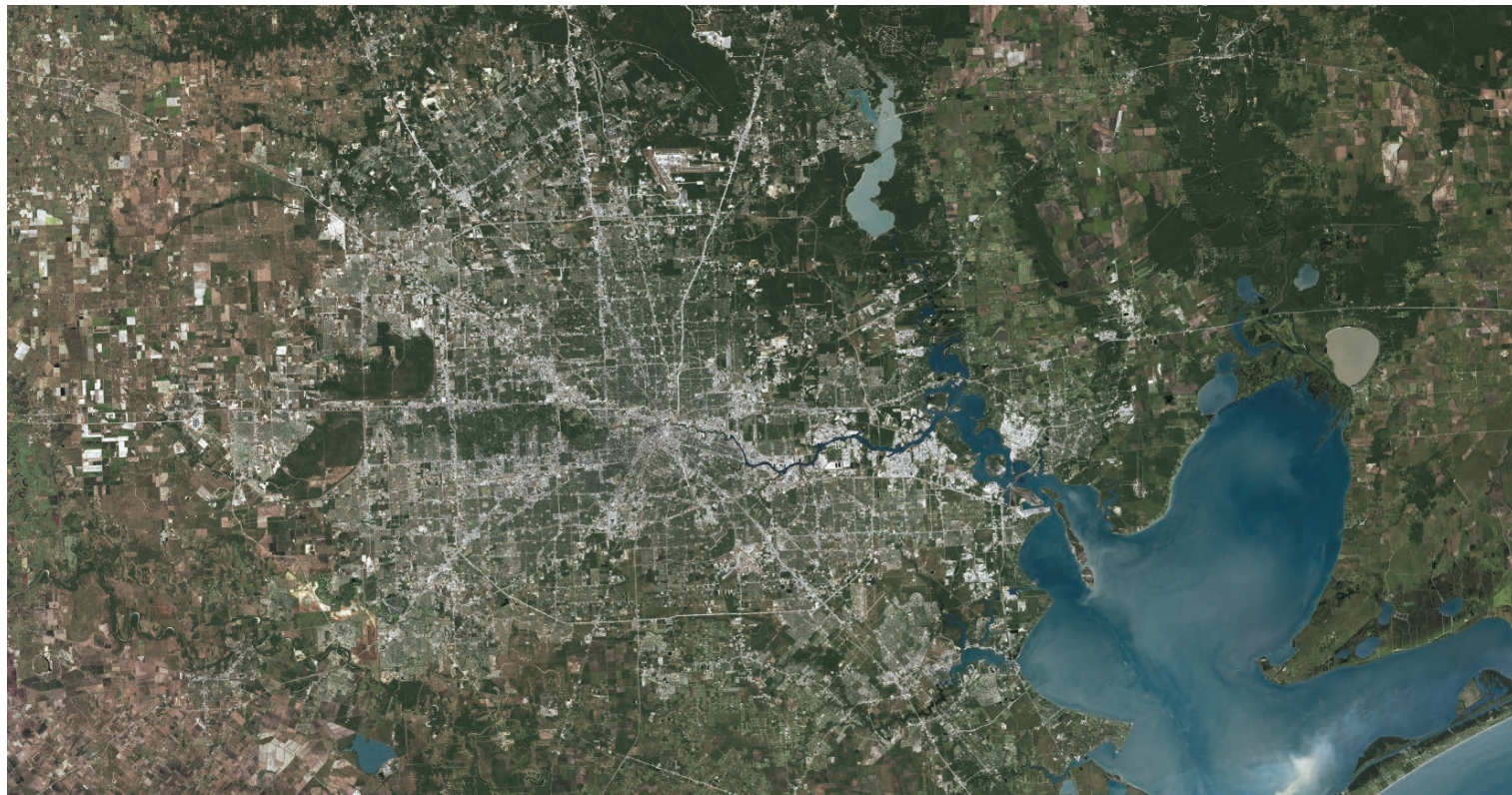**megacity** an urban area with more than 10 million people

DECREASING RURAL POPULATIONS WORLDWIDE

Migration to cities means fewer people living in rural areas across the globe. The number of people who leave rural areas increases every year. In 2014, there were about 3.4 billion people living in rural areas. By 2050, this will have decreased to 3.2 billion. What will happen to rural settlements as people move away?

What factors might slow the trend of people moving to cities from rural areas?

FIGURE 3.5 Facts about global urbanization

FIGURE 3.6 Houston, Texas, is the least dense, most car-dependent, and most sprawling city in the United States.

I wonder how higher gas prices will affect Houston in the future?

SPRAWLING CITIES

Around the world, most urban areas are increasing in size to make room for their growing populations. Many cities grow at their edges, creating urban sprawl. For example, Houston, Texas, is the most sprawling city in the United States (**Figure 3.6**). It now covers about five times the area it did in 1984. Cities grow in this pattern because land in the centre of cities is usually already built up. It is also expensive to buy. Land on the outskirts of cities is often agricultural or forested. Developers buy this land because it is less expensive. They build whatever reflects the needs of the growing urban population.

Sometimes developers build low-density settlements of one-family houses on the outskirts of urban areas. These settlements are called suburbs. Building new suburbs increases urban sprawl. You will learn more about the impacts of urban sprawl on the environment in the next section.

Many people choose to live in suburbs even if they work in the city centre. They can drive or take public transportation from their home to work, but they can live where there is less noise, more privacy, and more open space. Houses in suburbs are often less expensive than houses of the same size in the city.

urban sprawl the expansion of a city into previously undeveloped areas

suburb a low-density settlement, near a larger urban area, mostly made up of single-family houses

COMPACT CITIES

Some cities grow in population but do not have enough land to expand outward. Instead, they become more compact. They may have more high-rise buildings and more people living and working in a small area. They have higher population densities. For example, Dhaka, Bangladesh, is the most dense city in the world. Dhaka has between 12 000 and 45 000 people per km^2. By comparison, Toronto, Ontario's population density is about 945 people per km^2.

MORE SETTLEMENT ALONG COASTS

As you learned in Chapter 1, many people settle along coastlines worldwide. The coastal settlement trend is increasing. The number of people settling along coastlines is predicted to increase by 30 percent from 1995 to 2025.

Some coastal cities cannot grow inland. There may be limited space or obstacles, such as mountains. Instead, they may grow vertically and become more dense.

Other cities are expanding into bodies of water, as you read in Chapter 2. These cities are in countries such as Nigeria, Japan, China, and Singapore. They have expanded their settlements in two ways: by reclaiming land from the water and by creating new islands. The new land is used for various purposes, such as for new housing, for a new or longer runway for an airport, or to expand a port. For example, three artificial islands in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, were created to provide land for housing, hotels, and entertainment centres (**Figure 3.7**).

FIGURE 3.7 This satellite photo shows the Palm Islands, the largest artificial islands in the world, off the coast of Dubai.

I wonder how rising sea levels would impact these islands?

ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

Environmentalists are concerned about the damage that expansion into the sea causes to shoreline features, such as sand dunes and mangrove forests, and to marine ecosystems. For example, 25 percent of all developed land in Hong Kong, China, is already reclaimed from the sea. Hong Kong has plans for several more engineering projects in the sea. They include adding a new runway to its international airport, which is already on reclaimed land, and will require reclaiming from the sea an area as large as 5000 Olympic-sized swimming pools. These projects threaten the habitat of the Chinese white dolphin. In 2012, there were only 61 white dolphins left.

CHECK-IN

1. **GATHER AND ORGANIZE** Create a graphic organizer to show the reasons why people migrate. Use two categories: push factors and pull factors.

2. **GEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE** Reclaiming land can have economic advantages. It also has environmental impacts. Explain whether or not you think more land should be reclaimed from the sea, and give reasons.

3. **EVALUATE AND DRAW CONCLUSIONS** How would you explain the increase in urban sprawl to a family member? Why is it important to know about urban sprawl?

4. **EVALUATE AND DRAW CONCLUSIONS** Many young people migrate from rural areas to urban areas. What impact might this have on birth rates in rural areas?