



Population Density of the U.S. and Canada

This map shows the population of selected cities and the patterns of population density in the United States and Canada. City size varies from under 250,000 to over 4 million people. The United States has more cities with large populations than does Canada. The four most populous cities in the United States are New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston. All have populations of at least 2 million people. Of the four largest cities in Canada -- Toronto, Montreal, Calgary and Ottawa -- only Toronto has at least 2 million people. This size difference should not be surprising as Canada contains about 35 million people, while the United States has about 314 million people (about nine times the population of Canada). Population density is the number of people per unit area. This map shows the number of people per square mile. The map shows us that the population of the two countries is not evenly distributed. Most of Canada's population lives in the southern section of the country, close to the United States. We can also see that the most densely populated region is the northeastern United States, in particular the area from Boston to Philadelphia. The West, East, and Gulf Coasts generally have high population densities. In contrast, much of the interior of the United States and Canada has relatively low population densities. We can also see that a very large proportion of Canada has extremely small population densities, with the northern sections having practically no inhabitants at all. The cold winters and difficulty of transportation are major contributors to the sparsity of population in the north. *Using the map and your knowledge of Geography, answer the following questions:*

WorldView Software: World Geography

MAP: Question 1

What two population features does this map show?

Question 2

*What letter is associated with cities with populations of between one million and two million people?
Name two cities that have such a population.*

Question 3

Describe the pattern of population density of the United States and Canada.

Question 4

Why are the population densities high along the coasts?

Question 5

Why are the population densities lower in the interior of the continent?