Population Density

Recommended Grades:

K-5

Time Needed:

10-15 minutes

Description

- Students will explore the population density of Kentucky.

Learning Objectives

- Students will:
    - Learn about population density.
    - Describe what areas of Kentucky are more or less densely populated.
    - Discuss ideas of why they believe areas are more or less densely populated.

Materials

- Population Density Map
- Cones

Preparation

- Choose some of the bigger cities in Kentucky and place a cone on them.

Rules: (e.g., have students remove shoes before walking on map)

Directions

1. Ask students if they believe they live in a rural, suburban, or urban area.
2. Use the population density map to place the students on the map with more students closer together in the more densely populated regions of the state and fewer students in the less densely populated regions of the state.
3. Ask the students what they think about how they are spread out across the map. Do they have a lot of room or just a little room? Introduce the idea of population density. Discuss the way they are spread out represents the population density of Kentucky.

4. Ask the students if they think there is a connection between where the cities (cones) are located and an area's population density.
5. Ask students if there are any other patterns they see with the population density of Kentucky. For example, are denser areas together in the same area or are they spread out across the state? Is there more population density in the north of the state? The east? Why do the students think these patterns occur? For example, the Appalachian Mountains or the National Forest Areas.

Optional Activity: Look up the list of most populated cities in Kentucky. Discuss why the top 20 most populated cities are not on the map. Reasons could include that the list changed since the maps were made or the cartographers needed a more balanced distribution of features across the map.

Potential Cities for the cones. The 20 most populated cities that coincide with cities on the Kentucky Giant Map are listed below. Each of the 20 cities are included in the Kentucky Location Cards. In other words, these are not the 20 most populated cities in Kentucky. They are the 20 most populated cities that are on the printed map. (Source: https://www.kentucky-demographics.com/cities_by_population)
Louisville
Lexington
Bowling Green
Owensboro
Covington
Richmond
Georgetown
Florence
Hopkinsville
Elizabethtown
Henderson
Jeffersontown
Frankfort
Paducah
Radcliff
Ashland
Murray
Madisonville
Winchester
Danville