Population Density in Japan

Life in a crowded country
Geographic setting

- ¾ of Japan is made up of mountains formed by tectonic plates colliding deep beneath the sea
- Volcanoes welled up in the cracks between the plates
- Undersea earthquakes often trigger tsunamis
- Only 1/8 of the land in Japan is arable
  - Arable—land suitable for growing crops
Population Distribution

• Where people live in a country, whether crowded together in cities or spread out across the countryside.
  • Most of Japan’s population live on the four main islands of Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu.
  • People tend to cluster where land is good for farming.
Population density

• Term geographers use to talk about where on Earth’s surface people live
  • Some places are densely populated (Japan); other places are sparsely populated (Antarctica)

• It is the average number of persons in a unit of area, such as a square mile
  • The higher the number is, the more crowded the country

EQ: How does population density affect people’s lives...in Japan and around the world?
In 2004, Japan’s population density was 880 persons per square mile.

The United States population density was 83 persons per square mile.

- Japan is almost 11 times as densely populated as the United States and roughly the same size as the state of California!
- What do you think this means for the people living in Japan? What issues do you think people living in Japan probably face?

Arithmetic population density

- The population of a country divided by its total land area
- Calculate the arithmetic population density of Japan and the United States given the information below:
  - Japan; population 127,368,088/land area 145,925 square miles
  - United States; population 316,668,567/land area 3,794,101 square miles

**HOMEWORK:** Find and calculate the arithmetic population density of Hawaii
Physiologic population density

- The population of a country divided by its arable land area

http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.HA.PC
Affects of Population Density

- Transportation
- Housing
- Land use
- Health

- Four corners brainstorm-list ways in which population density affects people in those four areas of life.