

CATEGORY: VENEZUELA: NOW

CONCEPTS: URBAN vs. RURAL, migration, ethnic/racial make-up

ACTIVITY: A DEMOGRAPHER'S TASK.

OBJECTIVE: To guide the student in the analysis of the population of Venezuela. The student will be able to give a general description of the population of Venezuela, making use of the skills and vocabulary learned through this unit. Students will also become familiar with the use of pie charts and several kinds of statistics.

MATERIALS: Reproduction of the following map, charts and questionnaire atlas of South America, world almanac, dictionary.

PROCEDURE: Distribute the hand-out to the students and read it once, to be sure they understand the directions. This unit has been designed for personalized learning. This means that the student should "discover" things, rather than being told. However, the teacher should be ready to give assistance, should it be needed. Once the students have completed their work, a discussion may be initiated, in which students share their conclusions.

VOCABULARY: urban, rural, demography, growth rate, population density, urbanization.



**LEVEL: MIDDLE GRADES**

Source: Gibbs, Virginia G. *Latin America: Curriculum Materials for the Middle Grades*. Center for Latin America, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. 1985. | 1989.

## Questionnaire

The following questionnaire should help you in your study of the population of Venezuela, in your task as a demographer. Make sure you fully understand what your assignment is and how to do it. If you have any questions, feel free to ask your teacher. However, try to complete the assignment on your own. Remember, we enjoy more what we discover than what we are told. Ready?

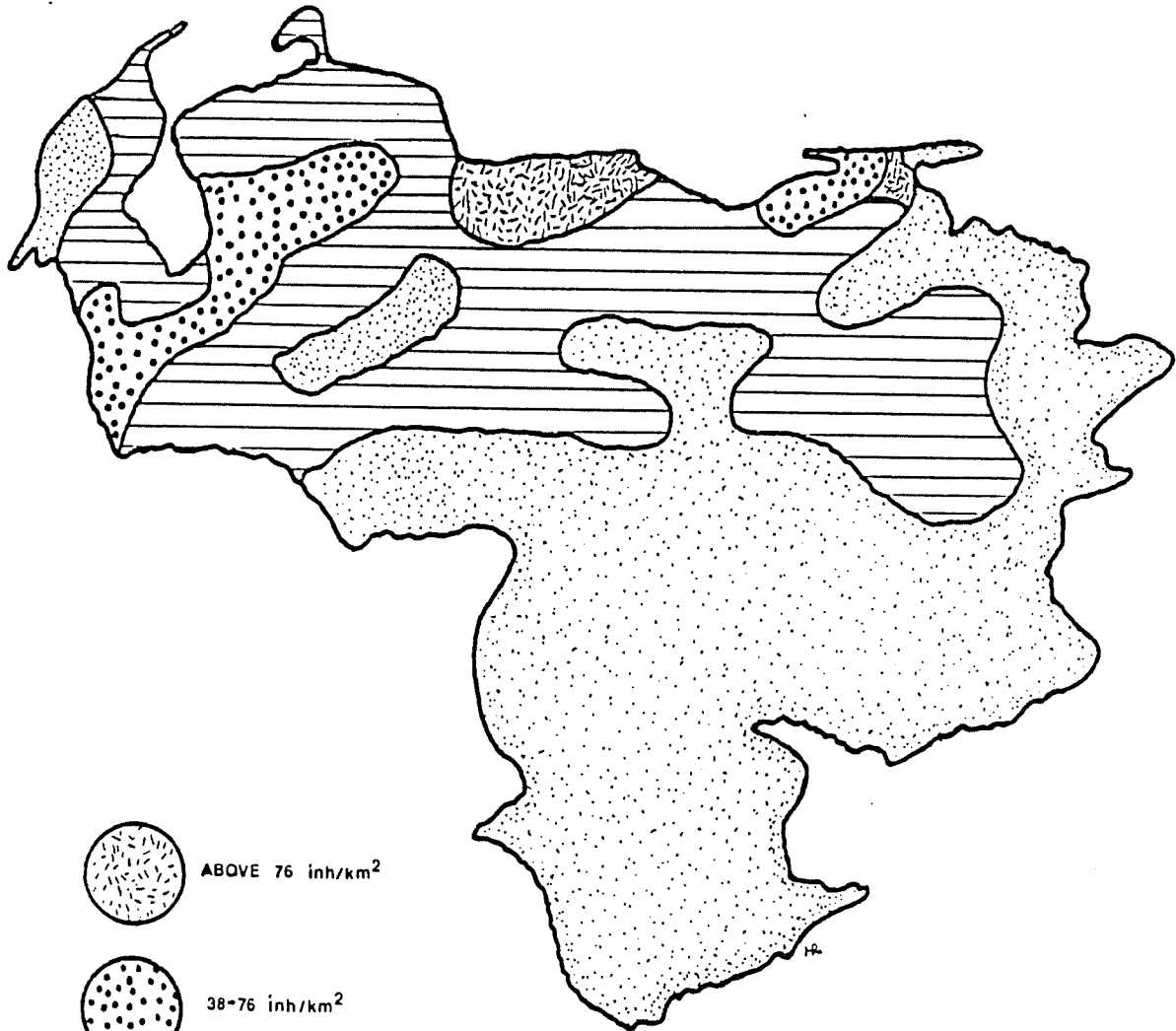
Answer the following questions:

- What is a demographer?
- What is the total area of Venezuela? Its 1988 population?
- What is density of population? What is Venezuela's density of population?  
Remember:  $\text{density} = \frac{\text{population}}{\text{area}}$
- What does your result mean? Examine the map of population distribution attached to this questionnaire. Can you compare/contrast some of that information with your results? Do they match? Why? In which areas are there higher population densities? Why?
- Now examine and complete the pie charts of urbanization. What was the total population of Venezuela in 1926? What was the percentage of urban population for that year? What does it mean in numbers? What was the percentage of rural population for the same year? What does it mean in numbers? (Answer the same questions for 1941, 1961, and 1988.
- What do you conclude from this? Has urbanization increased or decreased? Why? List some possible causes.
- If you were a Venezuelan peasant, why would you like to move to a big city?

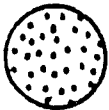
What would you have in a big city that you do not have in the country?

To conclude, design a pie-chart of the racial distribution of Venezuela's population.

# DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION



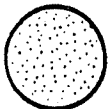
ABOVE 76 inh/km<sup>2</sup>



38-76 inh/km<sup>2</sup>



3-6 inh/km<sup>2</sup>



LESS THAN 3 inh/km<sup>2</sup>