Population

Activity 2 Population Density

The table below shows the population of the largest cities in the United States in 2000. It also provides each city's area in square miles and its population density. The **population density,** or average number of people living in a given area, is expressed as thousands of people per square mile. Refer to the table as necessary to answer the questions that follow.

Population of the Largest Cities in the United States			
City	**Population, 2000**	**Area, sq. mi.**	**Pop. per sq. mi.**
New York, New York	7,420,166	308.9	24,021
Los Angeles, California	3,597,556	469.3	7,666
Chicago, Illinois	2,802,079	227.2	12,333
Houston, Texas	1,786,691	539.9	3,309
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	1,436,287	135.1	10,631
San Diego, California	1,220,666	324.0	3,767
Phoenix, Arizona	1,198,064	473.9	2,528
San Antonio, Texas	1,114,130	333.0	3,346
Dallas, Texas	1,075,894	342.4	3,142
Detroit, Michigan	970,196	138.7	6,995
San Jose, California	861,284	171.3	5,028
San Francisco, California	745,774	46.7	15,969
Indianapolis, Indiana	741,304	361.7	2,049
Jacksonville, Florida	693,630	758.7	914
Columbus, Ohio	670,234	190.9	3,511

Source: *The World Almanac and Book of Facts,* 2001.

Analyzing a Table

1. What were the two most populous cities in the United States in 2000?
2. What is the difference between population size and population density?
3. Which two cities were the most densely populated?
4. Is your town or city large or small compared to others in your state?
5. Is your town or city sparsely or densely populated?
6. What is the effect of the population density on the environment and the quality of life in your neighborhood?