

After the Zombie Apocalypse: Where Will We live?

The end is coming!

You have just been recruited to be a secret agent in the most important and secretive government agency there is: the Department of Zombies (DZ). As an agent in the DZ, it is your job to protect Delaware from zombie plagues. Some zombies are shown in figure 1. You will provide technical assistance to the state of Delaware and Center for Disease Control (CDC) in dealing with this zombie infestation.

Word comes in that it has finally happened: the zombie apocalypse is here! Zombies are walking the streets in Washington D.C. In order to protect Delawareans, including students at Conrad Schools of Science, you must turn to the only thing more powerful than a wave of the undead: human geography!



Figure 1: Zombies are known for many things, but friendly isn't one of them.

Task 1: The word *zombie* comes from Haitian and New Orleans voodoo origins. Although its meaning has changed slightly over the years, it refers to a human corpse mysteriously reanimated to serve the undead. Through ancient voodoo and folk-lore traditions, shows like the *Walking Dead* were born. In movies, shows, and literature, zombies are often depicted as being created by an infectious virus, which is passed on via bites and contact with bodily fluids. Harvard psychiatrist Steven Schlozman wrote a (fictional) medical paper on the zombies presented in *Night of the Living Dead about Ataxic Neurodegenerative Satiety Deficiency Syndrome* caused by an infectious agent. The *Zombie Survival Guide* identifies the cause of zombies as a virus called solanum.

Other zombie origins shown in films include radiation from destroyed NASA Venus probe (as in *Night of the Living Dead*), as well as mutations of existing conditions such as prions, mad-cow disease, measles and rabies. The rise of zombies in pop culture has given credence to the idea that a zombie apocalypse could happen. **In your group, quickly discuss what you already know about zombies from popular culture. Remember, we don't have a lot of time. Zombies are on their way to Delaware! 😊**

1. What do you and your group members already know about zombies? You may use words and/or visuals to describe "zombie."
2. Watch [Video # 1](#) or [Video # 2](#) about zombie brains. Share TWO things you learned about zombies below.

Task 2: We need to know if the zombies will eventually take over Delaware, and we need to figure this out without simply waiting to see what happens. Click on this [map](#) and then click on Washington D.C.

1. What are some things that you are noticing or some things you are wondering about as you watch this?
2. How well would our independent societies continue to function when human contact is the deadly vector of a fast-moving mutated virus?
3. Check out this [article](#) and answer this question: Why are Zombie attacks incredibly difficult to stop?

Task 3: Click on the [Map of the Dead](#). This map highlights areas of high risk during a zombie plague and also indicates where to locate useful resources (icons) to help you survive.

1. In the search bar, type **Wilmington, DE**. Write down the useful resources featured on the map.
2. In the search bar, type **Rehoboth, DE**. Write down the useful resources featured on the map.
3. After analyzing both maps, which location appears to be safer? Why?

Task 4: In order to make a recommendation to the State of Delaware about the best places to migrate to, you will need to watch this video titled [“How to Decide Where to Go in a Zombie Apocalypse?”](#) and answer the question below.

1. How can understanding **push** and **pull** factors help you determine the location best for survival in a zombie apocalypse?

Task 5: Read about [Ernst Ravenstein](#), the cartographer who wrote the original laws of human migration.

1. List Ravenstein’s Laws of Migration.
2. How can we utilize Ravenstein’s Laws of Migration to understand the current zombie apocalypse?

Task 6: Read this [article](#) and answer the question below.

1. Why is Boston is supposedly the *best place* to be during a zombie apocalypse?

Task 7: Look at this [choropleth map](#) about zombies and answer the question below.

1. Why is population density, physical terrain, and access to bodies of water important factors to consider during this zombie apocalypse?



2. Taking in consideration the data displayed on the map, is Delaware an ideal place to stay during the zombie apocalypse? Explain.

Task 8: Look at this [article about cities](#) and answer the question below.

1. According to *City Lab*, why are cities the worst place to be during a zombie apocalypse? How does this article conflict with what you learned about Boston, a major U.S. city?

Final Task: Now that you have had a chance to learn about migration and zombies, you will need to make a Final Recommendation to the State of Delaware. You will complete this task by writing a F.R.Q. in which you address this question below.

1. So...Where should we live during the Zombie Apocalypse? In your response, **identify** and **explain** at least THREE push and/or pull factors that helped you determine the location best for survival in a zombie apocalypse.

