Population Geography
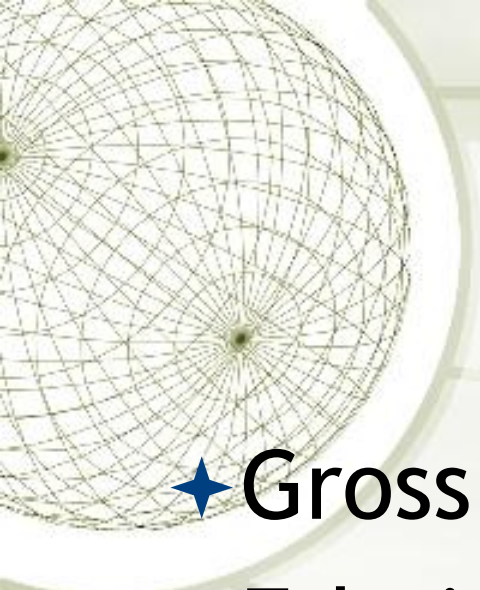
Characteristics of Human Populations

★Human populations around the world differ by densities, distributions, ethnicities, languages, religions, and other factors. Imagine traveling to China and then to Northern Canada. How might the populations vary in these areas?

How do Geographers Compare Populations?

- Birth and Death Rates
- Age Distribution
- Male/Female Distribution
- Life Expectancy
- Infant Mortality
- Urban/Rural

✦Gross Domestic Product

✦Ethnicity

✦Language

✦Religion

✦Level of Education

Birth and Death Rates

✦ Birth and death rates refer to how many people are born and how many people die. Developing countries have high death rates and birth rates.

Birth and Death Rates

✦ Birth rates are higher in developing countries for the following reasons:

1. No birth control

2. Religious restrictions

3. Economic factors

4. The role of women in society
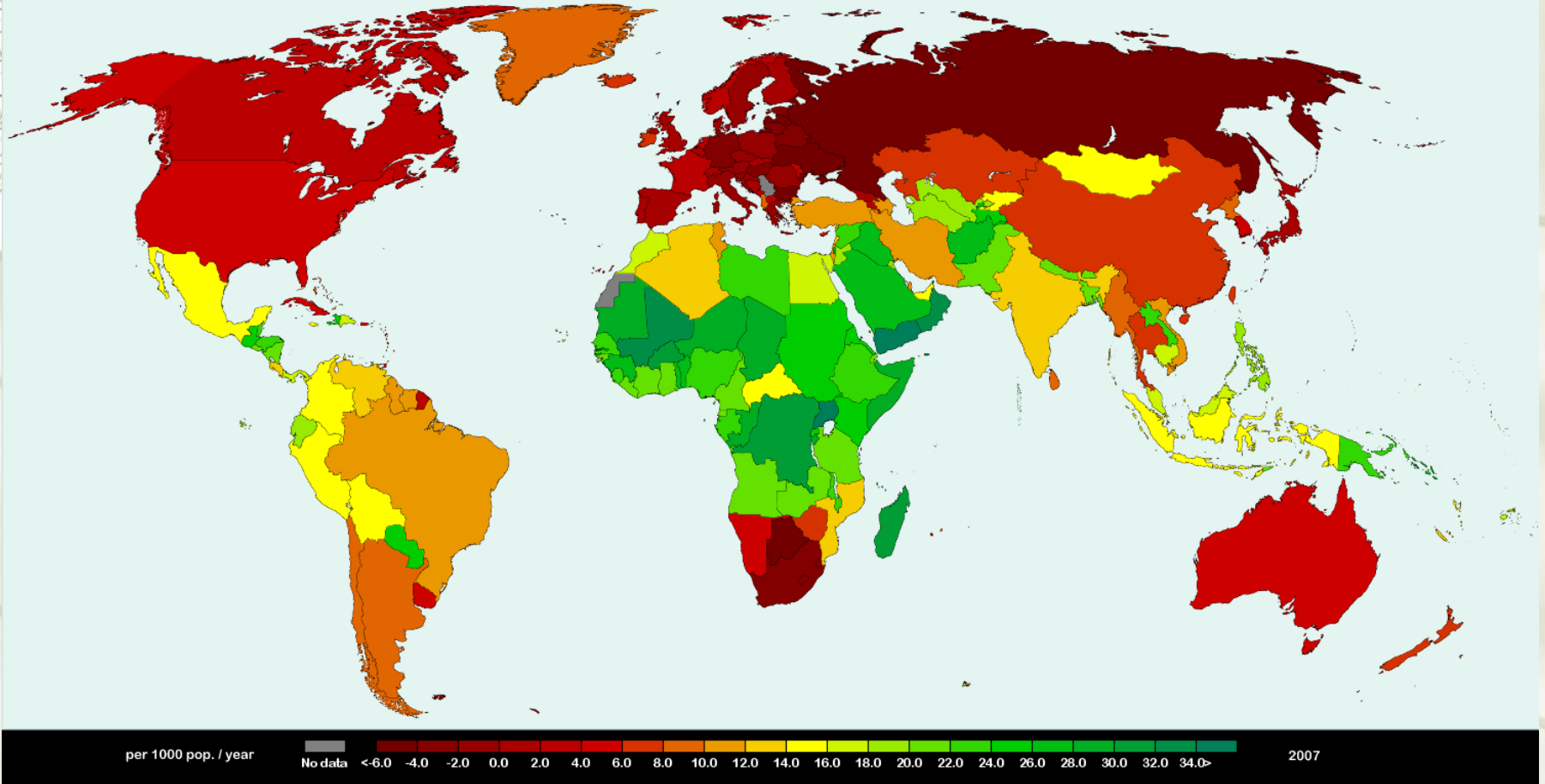
Birth and Death Rates

✦ Death rates are higher in developing countries for the following reasons:

1. No access to medical care

2. Poor nutrition

World: net birth rate 2007

Source: CIA World Factbook March 2007

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_value

per 1000 pop. / year

No data | <-6.0 | -4.0 | -2.0 | 0.0 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 8.0 | 10.0 | 12.0 | 14.0 | 16.0 | 18.0 | 20.0 | 22.0 | 24.0 | 26.0 | 28.0 | 30.0 | 32.0 | 34.0>
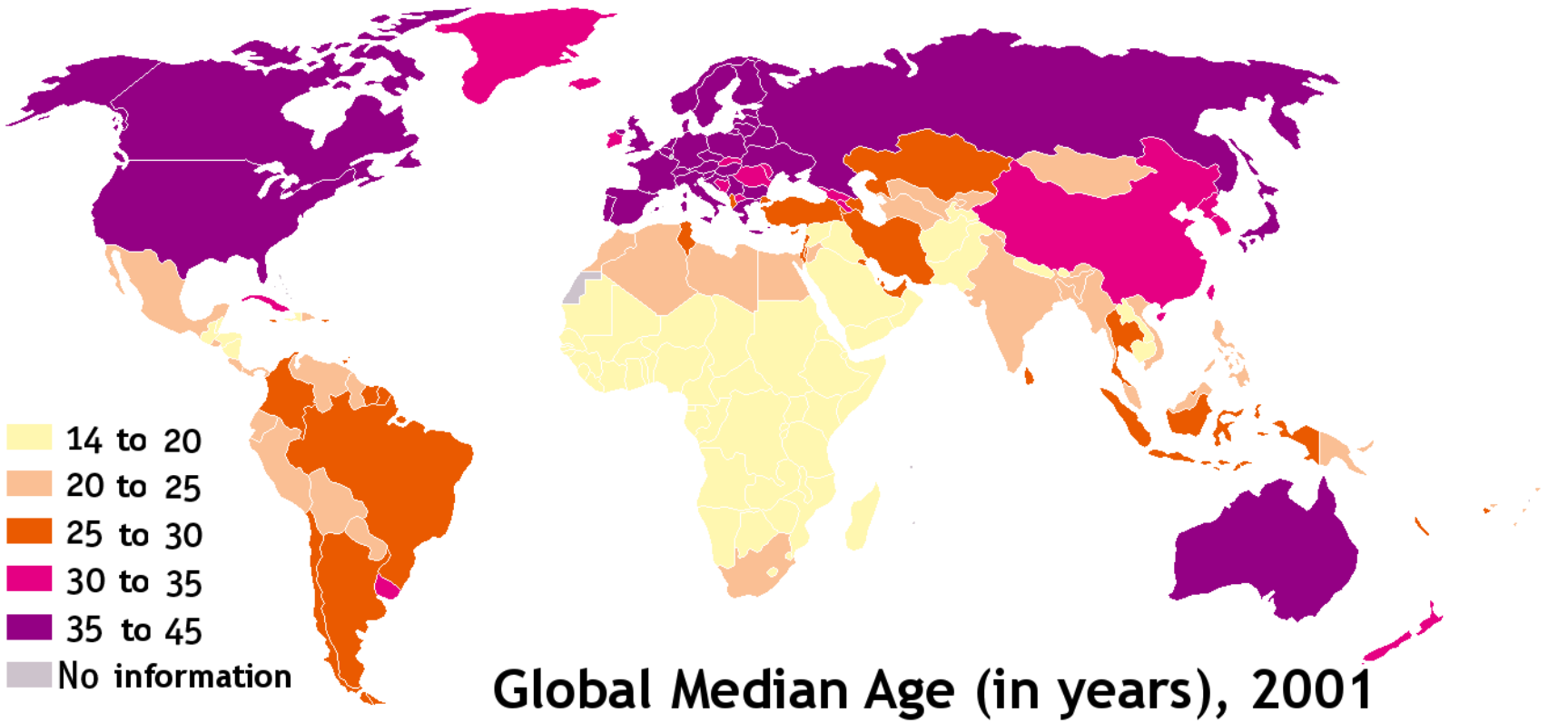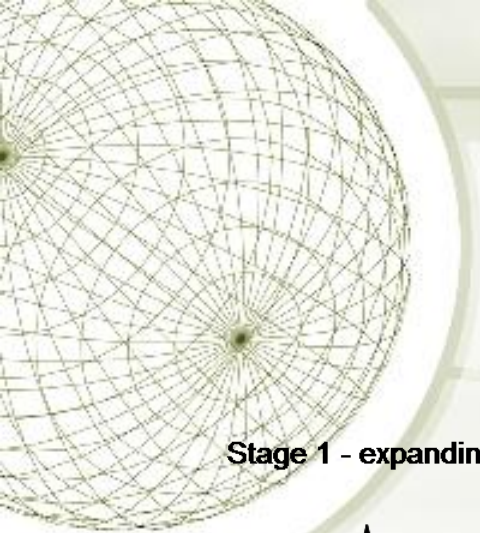
2007

Age Distribution

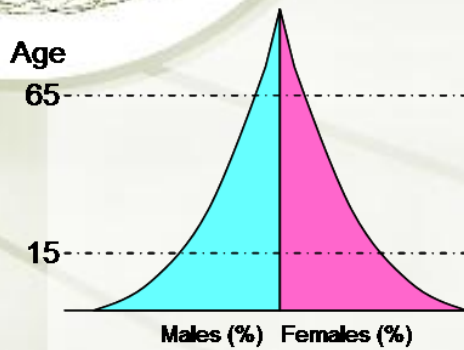★ Age distribution refers to the number of young people compared to older people in a given population.

Age Distribution

+ Developed countries, such as the United States, Canada, and most of Europe have an aging population. This happens when people are having fewer children and living longer. This translates to a shortage of laborers.
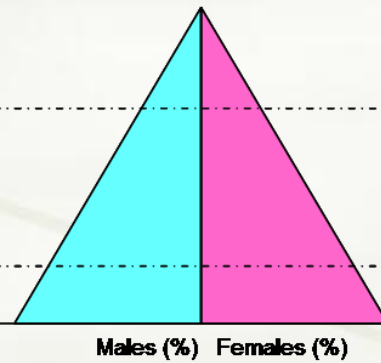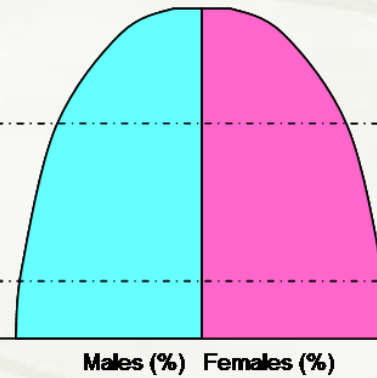
Global Median Age (in years), 2001

14 to 20
20 to 25
25 to 30
30 to 35
35 to 45
No information

Age

Stage 1 - expanding

Stage 2 - expanding

Stage 3 - stationary

Stage 4 - contracting

65

15

Males (%) Females (%)

Males (%) Females (%)

Males (%) Females (%)

Males (%) Females (%)

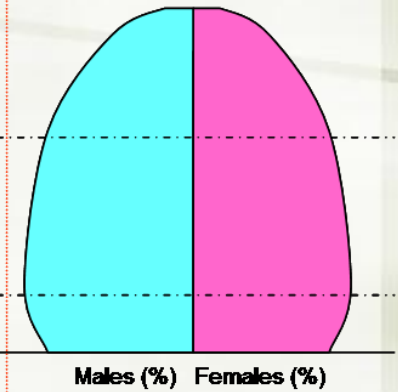High birth rate; rapid fall in each upward age group due to high death rates; short life expectancy.

High birth rate; fall in death rate as more living in middle age; slightly longer life expectancy.

Declining birth rate; low death rate; more people living to old age.

Low birth rate; low death rate; higher dependency ratio; longer life expectancy

Male/Female Distribution

✦ This is self explanatory. Some areas have an imbalanced male/female distribution. A good example is when settlers first came to Jamestown. For many years the colony had more males than females.

Male/Female Distribution

★ China has a one child policy. Families are restricted to having one child or they face penalties imposed by the government. This led to female infanticide or the killing of girl infants.
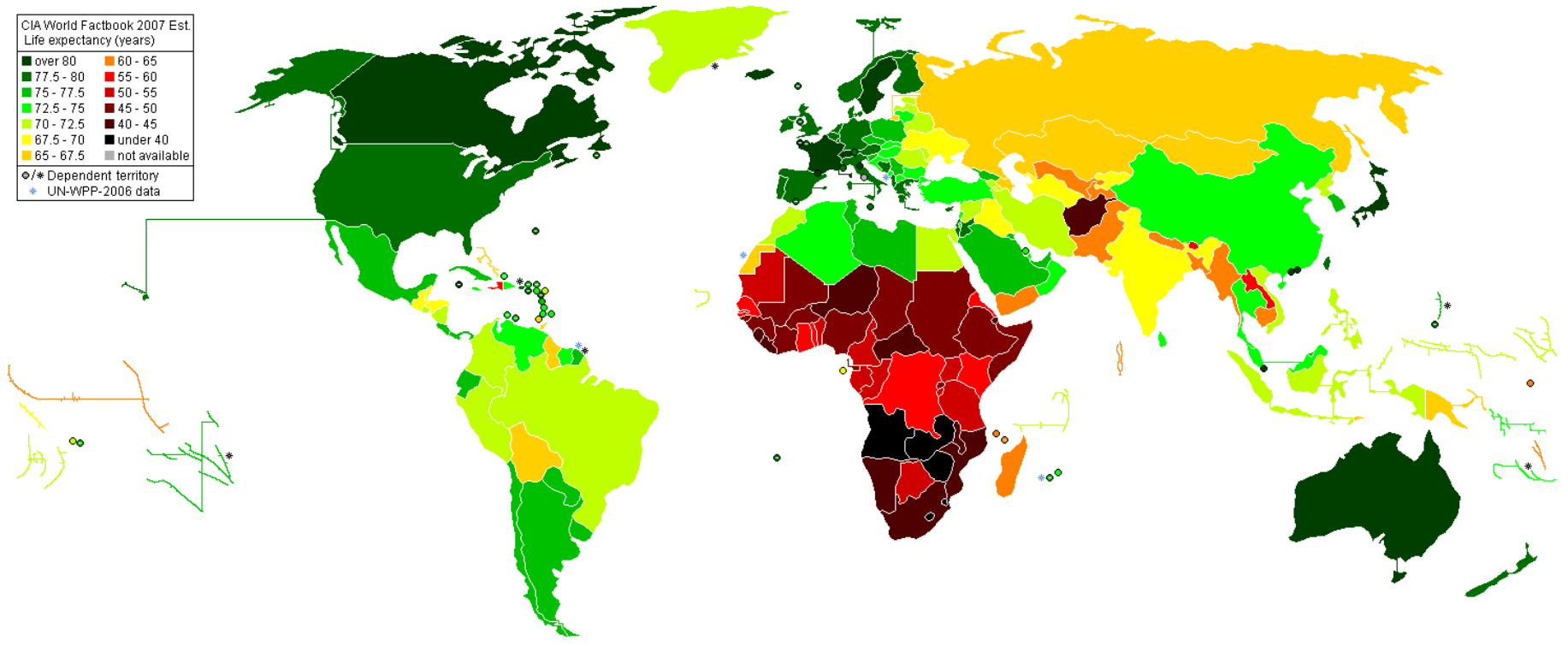
Life Expectancy

✦ Life expectancy is how long a person will live. Life expectancy is longer in developed countries, mainly due to better medical care. Statistically, women live longer than men.

CIA World Factbook 2007 Est.
Life expectancy (years)

- over 80
- 77.5 - 80
- 75 - 77.5
- 72.5 - 75
- 70 - 72.5
- 67.5 - 70
- 65 - 67.5
- 60 - 65
- 55 - 60
- 50 - 55
- 45 - 50
- 40 - 45
- under 40
- not available

◇/✳ Dependent territory
✳ UN-WPP-2006 data

Infant Mortality

+ Infant mortality is the number of babies that die at birth. This number is usually per every 1,000 people in a population.
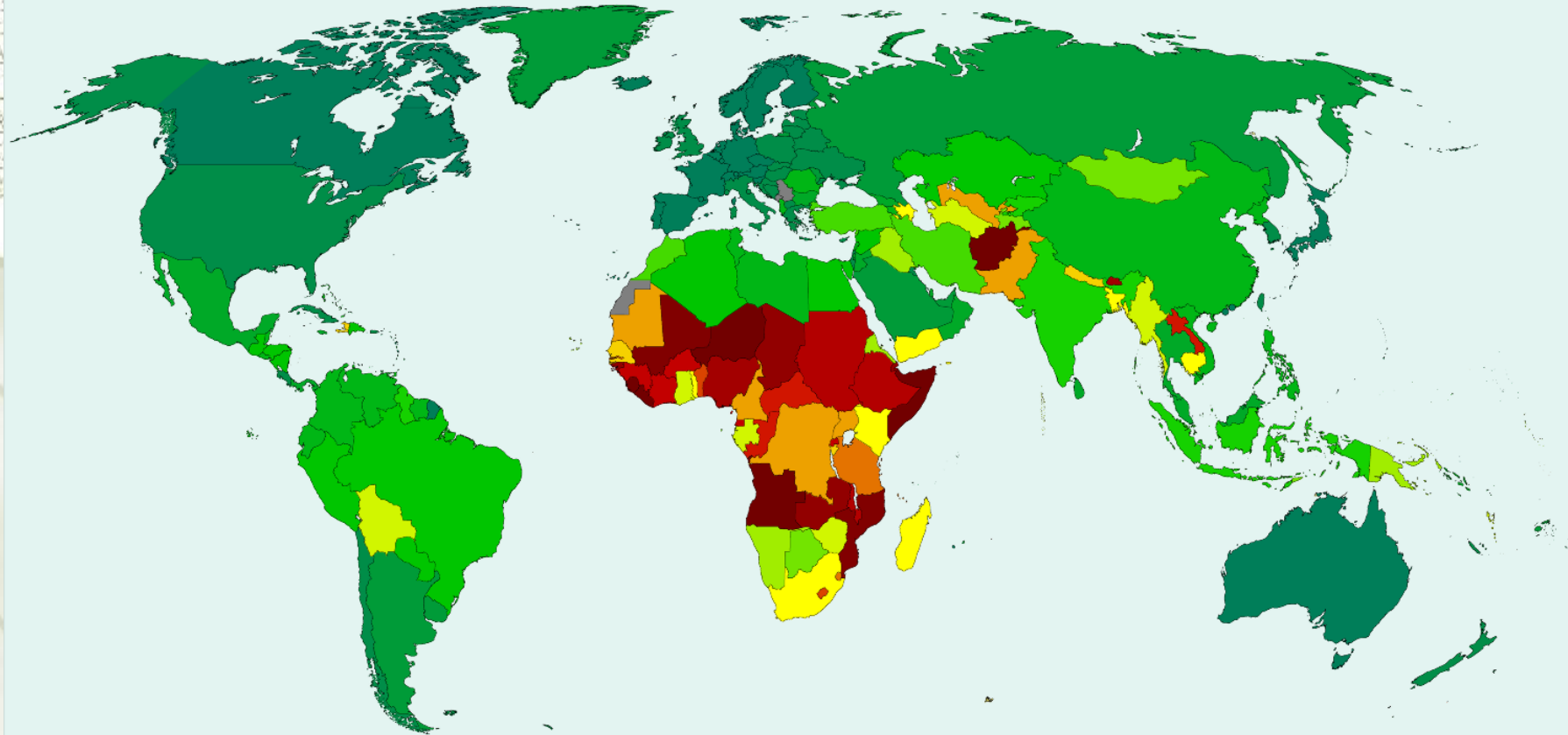
Infant Mortality

★ Infant mortality is very high in developing countries. For instance, some African countries have an infant mortality rate that is over 10%.

Source: CIA World Factbook 2007 (est.)

World: infant mortality rate 2007

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_infant_mortality_rate

deaths / 1000 live births   No data   <0   5   10   15   20   25   30   35   40   45   50   55   60   65   70   75   80   85   90   95   100   105   110>   2007

Urban/Rural Ratio

+ The urban/rural ratio is the number of people who live in the countryside versus the city. Countries like Japan, Singapore, and Korea have many more people who live in large cities than the countryside.
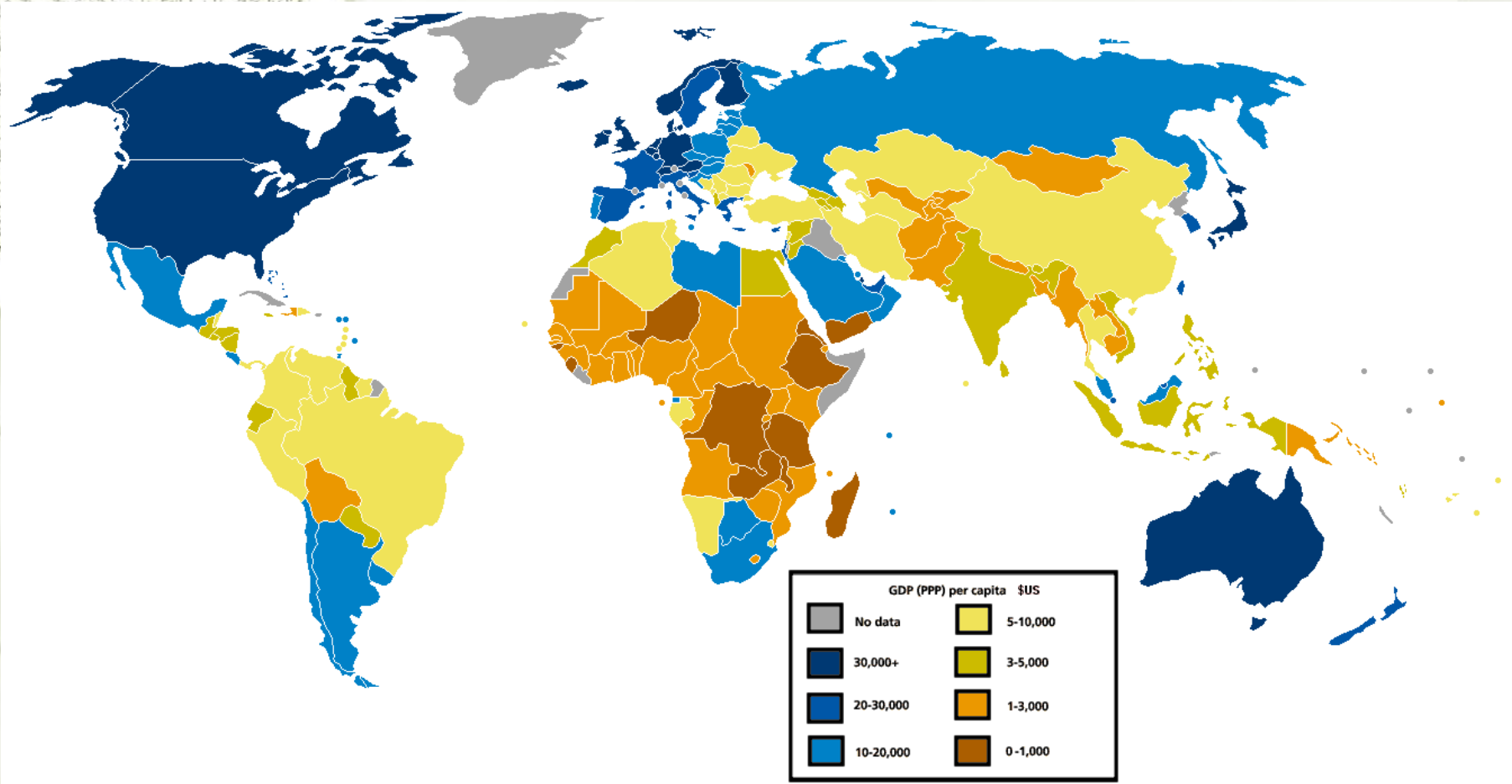
Urban/Rural Ratio

+ Over the last 100 years people have been migrating to large cities in the United States. Our population is becoming more urban.

Gross Domestic Product

- GDP is the total of all goods and services produced in a country in one year. Developing countries and poor populations have a low GDP.

GDP (PPP) per capita $US

No data		5-10,000	
30,000+		3-5,000	
20-30,000		1-3,000	
10-20,000		0 -1,000	

Ethnicity

✦ Ethnicity was defined during the unit on culture. Obviously, different populations around the world have different ethnic compositions.

Ethnicity

+ The ethnicity of the United States is relatively diverse because the United States is composed of immigrants while Japan has a homogeneous population.

Language

✦ Different populations speak different languages. English and Spanish are the two most spoken languages in the United States, but countries like Nigeria have over 200 spoken languages.

Religion

+ Two different populations may follow different religions. Protestant Christianity is the largest religion in the United States while Hinduism is the main religion in India.

Education

✦The level of education differs between populations. Developing countries normally have poor education systems or children do not have the opportunity to go to school.

🟥	<50%
🟥	50-60%
🟧	60-70%
🟨	70-80%
🟩	80-90%
🟦	90-97%
🟦	>97%