

3.10 Global Connections

This map shows where people live around the world. The areas in purple represent the most densely populated regions—these are population hot spots in the global ecumene. The gray areas represent very thinly populated regions, which lie outside the global ecumene. Notice that different parts of the ecumene have different population densities. Why do you think this might be so?

What climate zones are likely to be found in the global ecumene?

The climates found in the ecumene are neither too hot nor too cold for people to live comfortably. Areas outside of the ecumene, however, often have extreme temperatures. Few crops, for instance, can be grown in such climate regions. That helps explain why the regions are not part of the ecumene.

Which physical features are likely to lie outside the global ecumene?

Some of Earth's physical features are not well suited for human settlement. Relatively few people live in major deserts because these areas are too dry to support life. Most mountainous regions are thinly settled because they are too rugged for most people. Many large swamps—wet, spongy lands that are submerged in water much of the time—also lie outside the ecumene.

What might life be like for people who live outside the ecumene?

Most of the world's people live within the global ecumene, but some people live in less populated areas. They survive by finding ways to stay warm, keep cool, find water, or keep dry—even in the harshest conditions. In later chapters, you will look at different ways people adapt to living in extreme environments outside the ecumene.

Ecumene Around the World



