What affects where we live?

Some places attract people and have become crowded. Other places are less attractive and have fewer people living there. Many different things affect the way people are spread across the world. These include relief, climate, vegetation, water supply, raw materials and employment opportunities.

The sketches on Activity Sheet 5.4b show one area of high density population and one area of sparse population. Below are some factors in population distribution.

Pleasant climate.	Lack of investment.	Open grassland for animals.
Too hot or too cold.	Too wet or too dry.	Poor water supply.
Dense forest.	Good soil for growing crops.	Good food supply.
Good water supply.	Government invests money.	Flat or gently sloping land.
Industrial place.	Poor TV reception.	River valley.
Poor transport links.	Little industry and few jobs.	Few natural resources.
Poor soils for farming.	Wars and fighting.	Money available for investment.
Industry and jobs.	Good education system.	Good roads, railways, ports, etc.
Steep slopes with poor soil.	High land.	Fertile soil for growing crops.
Earthquake zone.	Rainforest.	Natural resources for industry.
Volcanic area.	Likely to flood.	Established medical facilities.
Hurricanes.	Job opportunities.	Blizzards.
Cheap labour costs.	Coastal area.	Desert.
Inaccessible.		

1 Using the above factors, write labels around the sketch of the Himalayan Mountains on Activity Sheet 5.4b to show all the reasons why you think very few people live in this area. Be careful! You will not need to include all of the factors.

2 Write a similar set of labels around the sketch of Western Europe on Activity Sheet 5.4b to explain why it has a high population density.

3 For each sketch, underline the:
◆ **physical factors** in **green**
◆ **social factors** in **red**.

4 Underline those social factors that are also **economic** in **blue**.