CITY POPULATIONS THROUGH HISTORY

Top Ten Cities – 100 AD		1000		1500		1800		1900		1950	
1	Rome 450,000	1	Cordova, Spain 450,000	1	Beijing, China 672,000	1	Beijing, China 1,100,000	1	London, United Kingdom 6,480,000	1	New York, United States 12,463,000
2	Luoyang (Honan), China 420,000	2	Kaifeng, China 400,000	2	Vijayanagar, India 500,000	2	London, United Kingdom 861,000	2	New York, United States 4,242,000	2	London, United Kingdom 8,860,000
3	Seleucia (on the Tigris), Iraq 250,000	3	Constantinople (Istanbul), Turkey 300,000	3	Cairo, Egypt 400,000	3	Guangzhou, China 800,000	3	Paris, France 3,330,000	3	Tokyo, Japan 7,000,000
4	Alexandria, Egypt 250,000	4	Angkor, Cambodia 200,000	4	Hangzhou, China 250,000	4	Edo (Tokyo), Japan 685,000	4	Berlin, Germany 2,707,000	4	Paris, France 5,900,000
5	Antioch, Turkey 150,000	5	Kyoto, Japan 175,000	5	Tabriz, Iran 250,000	5	Constantinople (Istanbul), Turkey 570,000	5	Chicago, United States 1,717,000	5	Shanghai, China 5,406,000
6	Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka 130,000	6	Cairo, Egypt 135,000	6	Constantinople (Istanbul), Turkey 200,000	6	Paris, France 547,000	6	Vienna, Austria 1,698,000	6	Moscow, Russia 5,100,000
7	Peshawar, Pakistan 120,000	7	Baghdad, Iraq 125,000	7	Gaur, India 200,000	7	Naples, Italy 430,000	7	Tokyo, Japan 1,497,000	7	Buenos Aires, Argentina 5,000,000
8	Carthage, Tunisia 100,000	8	Nishapur (Neyshabur), Iran 125,000	8	Paris, France 185,000	8	Hangzhou, China 387,000	8	St. Petersburg, Russia 1,439,000	8	Chicago, United States 4,906,000
9	Suzhou, China n/a	9	Al-Hasa, Saudi Arabia 110,000	9	Guangzhou, China 150,000	9	Osaka, Japan 383,000	9	Manchester, United Kingdom 1,435,000	9	Ruhr, Germany 4,900,000
10	Smyrna, Turkey 90,000	10	Patan (Anhilwara), India 100,000	10	Nanjing, China 147,000	10	Kyoto, Japan 377,000	10	Philadelphia, United States 1,418,000	10	Kolkata, India 4,800,000

Tertius Chandler's compilation of the population of cities throughout history, *Four Thousand Years of Urban Growth: An Historical Census* is an amazing work providing the population of cities throughout time. As there were few censuses prior to the end of the eighteenth century, Chandler used a variety of methods to determine the size of the world's largest cities: he used traveler's estimates, data on the number of households within cities, the number of wagons of food that arrived at the cities, the size of the military (commonly 1/6 of the size of a city during peace and 1/5 of the size of the city during times of crises), the area of the city walls along with typical densities, church records, the amount of food distributed to citizens, city comparisons (i.e. London is larger than Paris but smaller than Moscow), and even the loss of life in a disaster. Therefore, in many cases, Chandler's numbers can only be considered rough approximations of the urban population. His figures include the city and surrounding suburban or urbanized area.

Questions:
1) In what world regions were the greatest cities in 100 AD? 1000? 1500? 1900? 2000?
2) Identify an era for each of the years stated above, and state why these cities were so significant (in general).
3) Look to the city populations of 2015. Which regions hold the largest cities in the present world? Why?
4) Which influential continent is absent from the urban top ten list today? Hypothesize why there been such a dramatic change over the past century.
5) Discuss what you think these numbers mean for the future. Is this largely positive or negative? Why?

	2000			2015	
1	Tokyo, Japan	36.4 mil	1	Tokyo, Japan	37.5 mil
2	Delhi, India	18.1 mil	2	Jakarta, Indonesia	30.1 mil
3	Mumbai, India	18.1 mil	3	Delhi, India	24.9 mil
4	São Paolo, Brazil	17.8 mil	4	Manila, Philippines	24.1 mil
5	Shanghai, China	17.0 mil	5	Seoul, South Korea	23.5 mil
6	New York, USA	16.6 mil	6	Shanghai, China	23.4 mil
7	Lagos, Nigeria	13.4 mil	7	Karachi, Pakistan	22.1 mil
8	Los Angeles, USA	13.1 mil	8	Beijing, China	21.0 mil
9	Kolkata, India	12.9 mil	9	New York, United States	20.6 mil
10	Buenos Aires, Argentina	12.6 mil	10	Guangzhou, China	20.5 mil