

WORKSHEET: Geography and Demography of the Rio Grande Basin

1. The following chart shows the cities and other places in the Rio Grande Basin that have a concentrated population of at least 5,000 persons. Think of a way to show the population of the different size cities and towns on Map 3 which you received earlier. Label the names of each place.

Places in the Rio Grande Basin with a Population of 5,000 or more persons 1990 census

Albuquerque	384,736	North Valley	12,507
Anthony	5,160	Paradise Hills	5,513
Belen	6,547	Rio Rancho	32,505
Bernalillo	5,960	Santa Fe	55,859
Corrales	5,453	Socorro	8,159
Espanola	8,389	South Valley	35,701
Grants	8,626	Sunland Park	8,179
Las Cruces	62,126	Truth or Consequences	6,221
Los Alamos	11,455	White Rock	6,192
Los Lunas	6,013		

2. Study the chart below and answer the "Questions for Thought" that follow. (The information on the chart is 1960 and 1990 census data, research from the UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, and the State Engineer's Office).

Comparison of population in New Mexico and the state's Rio Grande Basin

Year	Pop. NM	Pop. Rio Grande Basin (RG8)	% in RGB
1960	951,023	485,009	51.0%
1990	1,515,069	981,978	64.8%
2020	2,137,776 (est.)	1,578,079 (est.)	?

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. Calculate the percent of the state's projected population that will live in the Rio Grande Basin in the year 2020. Is the percentage living in the Rio Grande Basin getting larger or smaller according to the projections? What effect do you think this will have on the Rio Grande?
2. Most of the population growth in the Rio Grande Basin is taking place in the Albuquerque area and in Las Cruces. Why do you think this is so?
3. Where do you think Albuquerque, Las Cruces and other cities near the Rio Grande get their water for homes and businesses? What do you think they do with the waste?