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) For each of the years stated above, identify the era and state why the cities were so significant (in general).
3) Look ahead to the city populations of 2015 (est.). Which regions will hold the largest cities in the future?
4) Which influential continent is absent from the urban top ten list today (and 2015)? 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 (est.)	
1	Tokyo, Japan	26.4 mil	1	Tokyo, Japan	26.6 mil
2	Mexico City, Mexico	18.1 mil	2	Mumbai, India	26.1 mil
3	Mumbai, India	18.1 mil	3	Lagos, Nigeria	23.2 mil
4	São Paolo, Brazil	17.8 mil	4	Dhaka, Bangladesh	21.1 mil
5	Shanghai, China	17.0 mil	5	São Paolo, Brazil	20.4 mil
6	New York, USA	16.6 mil	6	Karachi, Pakistan	19.2 mil
7	Lagos, Nigeria	13.4 mil	7	Mexico City, Mexico	19.2 mil
8	Los Angeles, USA	13.1 mil	8	New York, USA	17.4 mil
9	Kolkata, India	12.9 mil	9	Jakarta, Indonesia	17.3 mil
10	Buenos Aires, Argentina	12.6 mil	10	Kolkata, India	17.3 mil