

## Population Distribution and Density

People are not evenly distributed across the Earth. Some places on the Earth are densely populated and some are sparsely populated. Demographers are social scientists who study changes in population and population patterns. Population is the total number of people in a particular area. In the United States, the government counts the population every ten years in what is called the census. Put on your demographer hat and look at the map below based on the 2010 census. Do you see any spatial patterns? What are they?

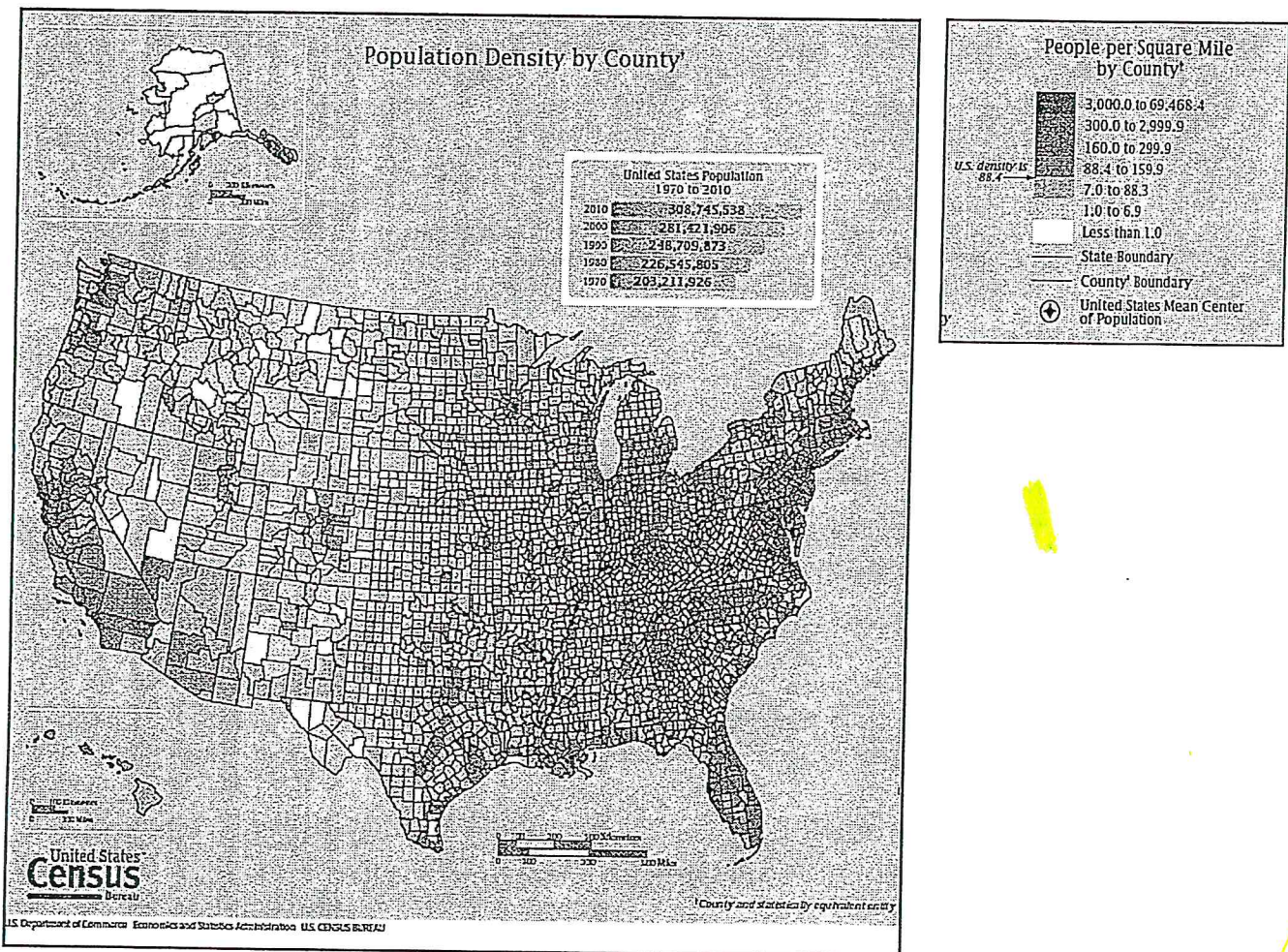


Figure 5: U.S. Census. Population Density by County.

**Population density** is a mathematical concept. It is defined as the number of people living in a defined area. There are some regions of the United States that are more crowded than others. This means that they have a higher population density. For example, the population density of New York City is 26,000 people per square mile. However, there are also areas