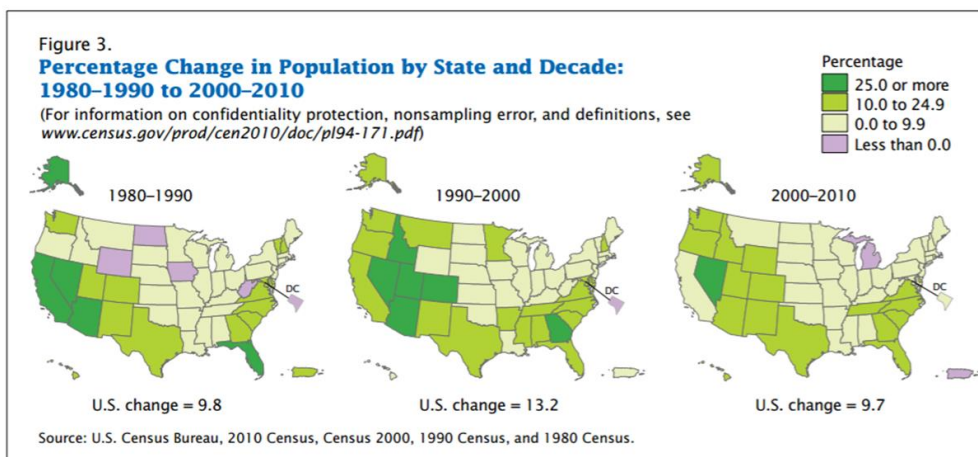STUDENT RESOURCE IV: **Challenge 2**

How are population patterns changing in the United States?

The purpose of this challenge is to understand how population patterns are changing in the United States and then more specifically in our community. We can then begin to consider the changing patterns of green or open space as they relate to population change.

Given these maps of the United States, create a table of your observations by first listing your observation and then one possible consequence for this change (Table 1).

For example, you might observe that there has been an increase in population in the southern tip of Florida. In the box to the right, you might write something about the consequences of a hurricane in this area of high population density. How would disaster relief supplies be distributed? Would there be enough hospital space if needed?

Observation	Potential Consequences

Figure 3.
Percentage Change in Population by State and Decade: 1980–1990 to 2000–2010
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf)

Percentage
25.0 or more
10.0 to 24.9
0.0 to 9.9
Less than 0.0

1980–1990   1990–2000   2000–2010

U.S. change = 9.8   U.S. change = 13.2   U.S. change = 9.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, Census 2000, 1990 Census, and 1980 Census.

Population Density, 2000

People per square mile by state
- 300.0 to 9316.0
- 79.6 to 299.9
- 7.0 to 79.5
- 1.1 to 6.9

U.S. density is 79.6

People per square mile by county
- 3000.0 to 66940.0
- 300.0 to 2999.9
- 160.0 to 299.9
- 79.6 to 159.9
- 7.0 to 79.5
- 1.0 to 6.9
- 0.0 to 0.9

U.S. density is 79.6

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (PL 94-171) Summary File. Cartography: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. American FactFinder at factfinder.census.gov provides census data and mapping tools.

U.S. Census Bureau

Mapping Census 2000: The Geography of U.S. Diversity **11**

Figure 7.
Population Density by County: 2010
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf)

Average number of people
- 300.0 or more
- 200.0 to 299.9
- 100.0 to 199.9
- 50.0 to 99.9
- 10.0 to 49.9
- Less than 10.0

U.S. density: 87.4

Note: Population density expressed as average number of people per square mile of land area.
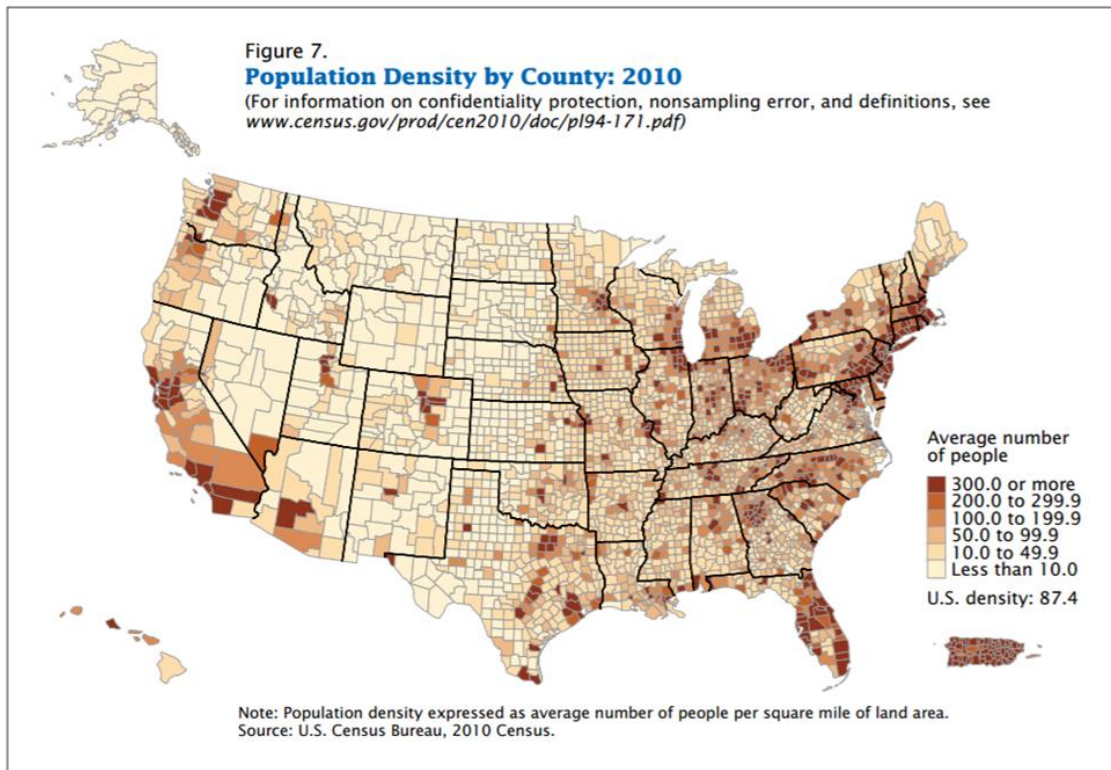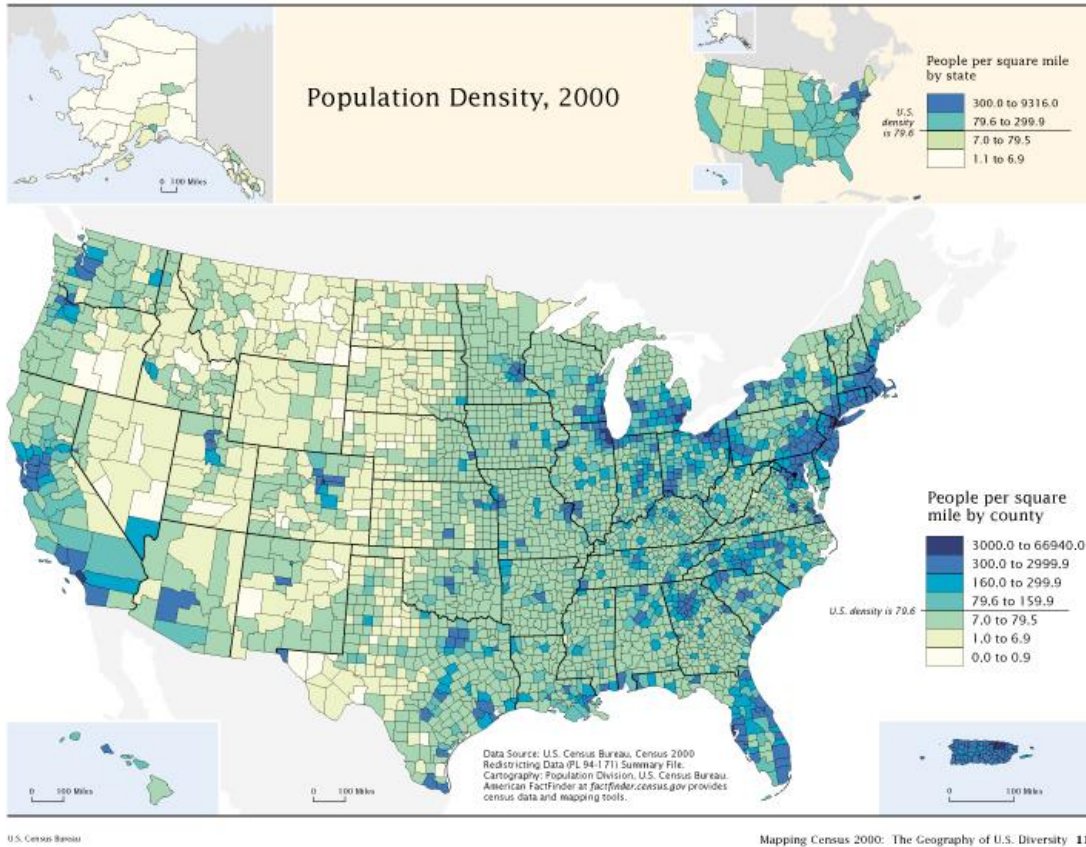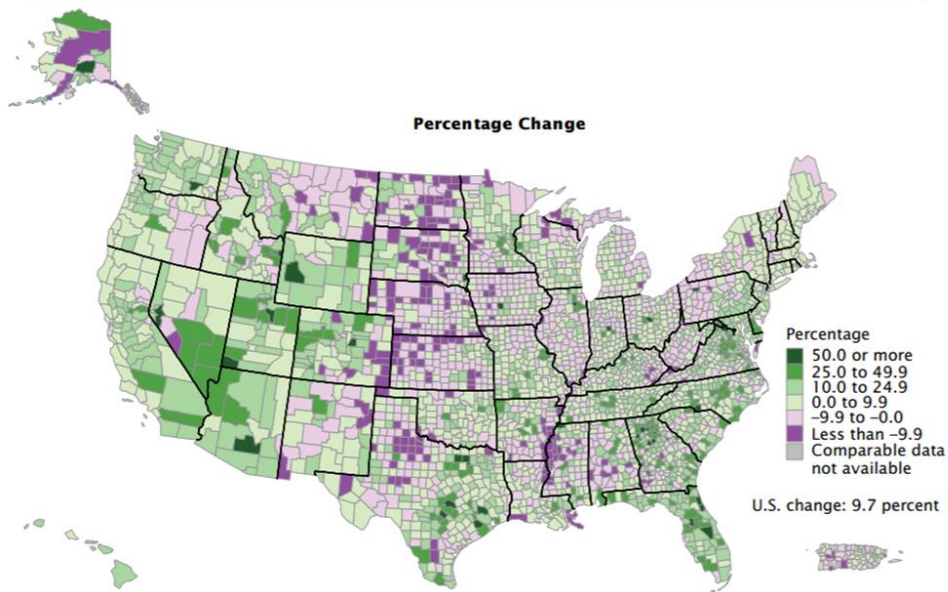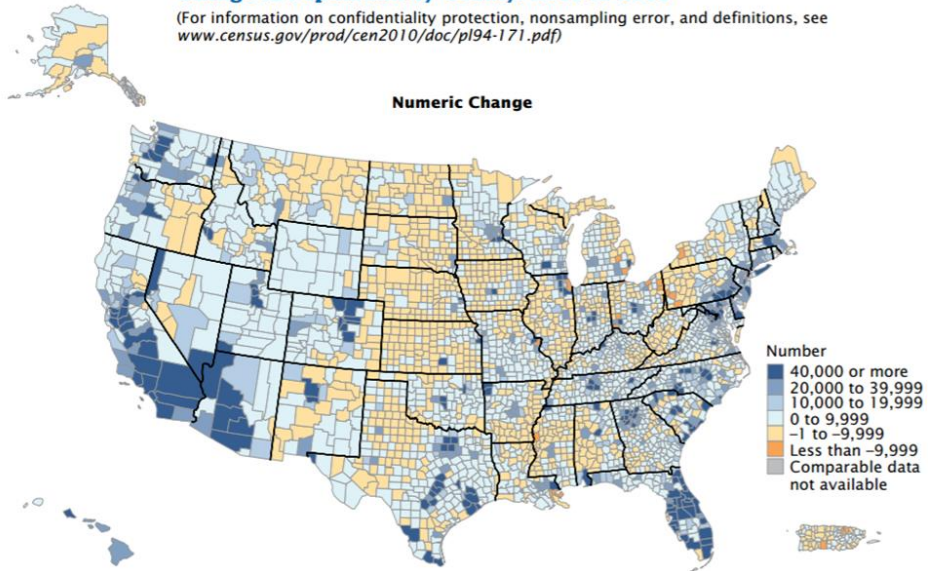Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

2

Figure 5.
Change in Population by County: 2000 to 2010
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/pl94-171.pdf)

Numeric Change

Number
- 40,000 or more
- 20,000 to 39,999
- 10,000 to 19,999
- 0 to 9,999
- −1 to −9,999
- Less than −9,999
- Comparable data not available

Percentage Change

Percentage
- 50.0 or more
- 25.0 to 49.9
- 10.0 to 24.9
- 0.0 to 9.9
- −9.9 to −0.0
- Less than −9.9
- Comparable data not available

U.S. change: 9.7 percent

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and Census 2000.

Going Further:

Let's take a look at trends in our county. Take a look at this interactive map of population change by county. (Note: You may have to try more than one web browser to get it to work. Google Chrome works well.)

Link: http://www.forbes.com/special-report/2011/migration.html

1. Find our county on the map and click on it. Examine the red lines (outbound migration) and blue lines (inbound migration) radiating outward from the county.

    Where are the people going (outbound red lines)?

    Where are they coming from (inbound blue lines)?

2. Look at the table, which is located on the upper right side of the page.

    What changes have occurred in population trends for our county between 2005 and 2010?