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UNIT

1

Population

Word Bank

density n.	general n.	lively a.
inhabit v.	Manchu n.	get rid of
indigenous a.	settler n.	battle n.
claim v.	mixture n.	drive out
take over	Hakka n.	reputation n.
rule (over) v.	manage to	

01 There are over 23 million people in Taiwan. Because Taiwan is very mountainous, most of its population lives on the western plains. There are over 651 people per square kilometer in Taiwan. Taipei, undoubtedly, has the highest population **density** in Taiwan, with over 2.6 million people **inhabiting** this city.

The **indigenous** peoples were the first people to live on the island. Today, there are officially 16 tribes, and indigenous people make up about two percent of Taiwan's population. The largest tribe is the Amis. The Amis live mostly in Hualien and Taitung. The indigenous peoples depend on farming and fishing for a living.

Taiwan's indigenous people were no longer able to live in peace once other peoples began arriving seeking to **claim** power. In 1624, the Dutch **took over** Taiwan. They **ruled over** most of the island until the first large Chinese army arrived in 1661. This army was led by a Chinese **general** named **Koxinga** 國姓爺 (**Zheng Chenggong** 鄭成功). He was fighting the **Manchu** Emperor in China and had to escape to Taiwan. He died soon after he got to Taiwan. Following that, many Chinese people came to live on the island. Most



↑ Koxinga
(Zheng Chenggong)



Koxinga's Shrine, Tainan, Taiwan

The 16 officially recognized indigenous tribes

- Amis 阿美族
- Paiwan 排灣族
- Atayal/Tayal 泰雅族
- Bunun 布農族
- Rukai 魯凱族
- Puyuma 卑南族
- Tsou 鄒族
- Saisiyat 賽夏族
- Tao/Yami 達悟族
- Thao 邵族
- Kavalan 噶瑪蘭族
- Truku 太魯閣族
- Sakizaya 撒奇萊雅族
- Seediq 賽德克族
- Saaroa 拉阿魯哇族
- Kanakanavu 卡那卡那富族

of the indigenous people escaped to the mountains, but some stayed on the plains. The ones who stayed behind married the Chinese **settlers**. This is why most Taiwanese people are actually a **mixture** of different races.

Nowadays, the population of Taiwan consists of Taiwanese, also called Hoklo or Holo, mainlanders, and indigenous people. There is also a group of Chinese called **Hakka**. Hakka people have **managed to** keep their own language and customs. Most of the mainlanders came to Taiwan in 1949 because of political problems in China. Today, the population of Taiwan is 70% Hoklo or Holo, 15% Hakka, 13% mainlanders, and 2% indigenous. Many foreigners also live in Taiwan.

Quiz

1. What is the population of Taiwan?
2. Where does most of the population have to live?
3. Who were the first people to live in Taiwan?
4. Who took over Taiwan and when?

Conversation



- Ethan** There sure are a lot of people here.
-
- Laura** Yes, the cities are pretty **lively**.
-
- Ethan** Even when I go to the countryside or the mountains, I sometimes still have a hard time finding a place that is completely quiet.
-
- Laura** I know what you mean. Sometimes when you climb a mountain to watch the sunset there's a crowd of people waiting for you at the top!
-
- Ethan** How many people are there in Taiwan?
-
- Laura** Over 23 million, and they mostly live on the western plains.
-
- Ethan** I guess the indigenous people were the first people to live here?
-
- Laura** Yeah, which is the same as in the U.S.
-
- Ethan** Does anyone know where they came from?
-
- Laura** No one knows for sure, but some people think they came from southern China.
-
- Ethan** So, when did the Chinese come to Taiwan?
-
- Laura** Around 400 years ago, but they had to **get rid of** the Dutch rulers first.
-
- Ethan** Was there much of a fight?
-
- Laura** Yes, the **battle** lasted for several months. A Chinese general called Koxinga wanted to use Taiwan as a base to fight the Qing Dynasty so he **drove out** the Dutch.
-
- Ethan** What does Hakka mean?
-
- Laura** The Hakka are a Chinese people who live all over China.
-
- Ethan** Are there many of them?
-
- Laura** They make up about 14% of the population. They have a **reputation** for working hard and they also have unique customs and food.
-
- Ethan** What about the Holo people?
-
- Laura** They make up about 70% of the population.



Indigenous Tribes

1

Population



← The largest indigenous tribe in Taiwan, the **Amis**, is a matrilineal society, which means that family affairs were traditionally decided by the women. The Harvest Festival is the most important event of the year.



Photo provided by the Formosan Aboriginal Cultural Village

↑ **Paiwan** artisans excel at wood carving. They are the second largest tribe in Taiwan and are known for their intricately decorated clothing.

The **Atayal** is the third largest tribal group in Taiwan. "Atayal" means "brave warrior" in the tribe's language.

→ The **Tao** live on Lanyu 蘭嶼 (Orchid Island). They are the only indigenous tribe to live on this outlying island, and also the only one to make traditional fishing boats. The Boat Launching Ceremony is a major event for the Tao.



↑ The **Bunun** tribe lives mostly in the Central Mountain Range and is a representative high mountain tribe. The Bunun observe many traditional rites and ceremonies, such as the Ear Shooting Festival.

