

Pop Quiz

1. What is the world population in 2010?

a) 900 million b) 2.5 billion c) 6.8 billion d) 7.5 billion e) 12 billion

2. By approximately how many people does the world grow each year?

a) 11 million b) 24 million c) 45 million d) 80 million e) 160 million

3. If the world's population continues at its current rate of growth, approximately how long will it take to double?

a) 9 years b) 22 years c) 58 years d) 95 years e) 148 years

4. True or False. There is a population explosion in the world today.

5. Which has NOT been a major cause of the population explosion?

a) an increase in birth rates b) modern preventive medicine c) improved sanitation
d) lower infant mortality e) longer life expectancy

6. What is the population of the United States in 2010?

a) 60 million b) 81 million c) 127 million d) 310 million e) 500 million

7. True or False. Now that the U.S. has reached the fertility rate of 2.0 children per family, all U.S. population growth is due to immigration.

8. Which of the following countries has the highest teen pregnancy rate?

a) Australia b) United States c) Japan d) Italy e) Morocco

9. The United States, which makes up less than 5 percent of the world's population, consumes approximately how much of the world's energy?

a) 5 percent b) 11 percent c) 22 percent d) 34 percent

Answers to Pop Quiz

- 1. What is the world population in 2010?**
c) 6.8 billion.

Note that world population figures are the best estimates demographers can make, but are not precise counts.

- 2. By approximately how many people does the world population grow each year? d) 80 million.**

This produces a growth rate of 1.2%, a slight decrease from the 2 percent rate of a decade ago. To calculate the world's growth rate, subtract the death rate (currently 8 per 1000) from the birth rate (20 per 1000) and divide the result by 10.

To calculate how many people are added to the world population each year, multiply the total world population by the growth rate, also called the natural rate of increase.

- 3. If the world's population continues at its current rate of growth, approximately how long will it take to double? c) 58 years.**

The doubling time of any population can be calculated by dividing the "magic number" 70 by the annual percent of growth. The natural rate of increase is the growth rate excluding immigration or emigration. For the world, 70 divided by 1.2 equals approximately 58.

- 4. True or False. There is a population explosion in the world today. You decide:**

It took all of human time on earth (about 3 million years) for the population to reach one billion in 1800. It took 130 years to reach the second. The third billion was added 30 years later in 1960. The fourth billion was added 15 years later in 1975. In 1987, only 12 years later, the world population reached five billion, and reached 6 billion in 1999. At our current rate of growth, it takes only about 12 years to add one billion people to our population.

- 5. Which has NOT been a major cause of the population explosion? a) An increase in birth rates.**

A decrease in death rates, rather than an increase in birth rates, has been the main cause of rapid population growth. Improved nutrition and sanitation, and advances in the areas of medicine and agriculture all contributed to this decline. In Western Europe, death rates dropped during the Industrial Revolution (beginning in about the 1700s.) Later, North America experienced a decline in death rates when industrialization and urbanization brought about better living conditions. In the 20th century, a dramatic drop in mortality took place in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Since fertility remained at its previous high level for

some time after death rates dropped in each of these areas, rapid growth resulted.

- 6. What is the population of the United States in 2010? d) about 310 million.**

Worldwide, only two countries, China and India, have a higher population than the United States. Next on the list is Indonesia, with a population of roughly 236 million.

- 7. True or False. Now that the U.S. has reached the fertility rate of 2.1 children per family, all U.S. population growth is due to immigration. False.**

An average of 2.1 children per family is also called the replacement level fertility rate because it will eventually bring about a non-growing population. However, this will not happen until births and deaths equal each other. Currently there are many more births than deaths--about 3.6 million more in 2009. The growth that is due to immigration is difficult to measure because of the lack of reliable numbers on illegal immigration. According to the nonpartisan Pew Research Center, new immigrants and their U.S. born descendants accounted for 51% of the population increase (68 million people) from 1980 to 2005.

- 8. Which of the following countries has the highest teen pregnancy rate? b) United States.**

At 4.3% per year, the United States has the highest rate of teen pregnancy among industrialized countries. This rate is equal to or surpasses some of the developing countries such as El Salvador or the Philippines. Pregnancy has severe negative impacts on the lives of teens. Teen mothers in the U.S. are more likely to drop out of school, have more children over their lifetimes, and rely more heavily on public assistance than teens that do not have children.

- 9. The United States, which makes up less than 5 percent of the world's population, consumes how much of the world's energy? c) 22 percent.**

Although 98.6 percent of global population growth is currently occurring in the less developed countries, Americans place disproportionately greater demands on world resources. On average, one American consumes as much energy as 2 Germans, 9 Syrians, 11 Columbians, 22 Indians, 108 Haitians, or 325 Ethiopians. It could easily be argued that a resident of the United States has a much greater impact on the quality of the global environment than a person living in any other part of the world.

Sources:

www.census.gov www.eia.doe.gov
www.prb.org <http://www.worldbank.org/>
<http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/85.pdf>