

Pop Quiz

1. What was the world population in 2015?

- a) 900 million
- b) 2.5 billion
- c) 7.3 billion
- d) 8.5 billion
- e) 13 billion

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

- a) 10 million
- b) 24 million
- c) 45 million
- d) 84 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 was the population of the United States in 2015?

- a) 60 million
- b) 81 million
- c) 127 million
- d) 321 million
- e) 500 million

7. True or False. Now that the U.S. has reached the fertility rate of 1.9 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) 20 percent
- d) 34 percent
- e) 39 percent

Sources:

www.census.gov www.eia.doe.gov
www.cdc.gov www.worldbank.org
www.prb.org
www.pewhispanic.org/files/reports/85.pdf

1. What was the world population in 2015?

c) 7.3 billion

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

2. By approximately how many people does the world grow each year? **d) 84 million**

This produces a growth rate of 1.2 percent, 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 1,000) from the birth rate (currently 20 per 1,000) 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 1 billion in 1804. It took 123 years to reach 2 billion. The third billion was added 30 years later in 1960, and the fourth was added 14 years later in 1974. In 1987, only 13 years later, world population reached 5 billion, it reached 6 billion in 1999, and 7 billion in 2011. At our current rate of growth, it takes about 12-13 years to add 1 billion people to our population.

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

A decrease in death rates, rather than an increase in birth rates, has been the main cause of rapid population growth. Improved nutrition, sanitation, and advances in medicine and agriculture all contributed to this decline. In Western Europe, death rates dropped during the Industrial Revolution (beginning in the 1700s). Later, North America experienced a decline in death rates when industrialization and urbanization brought better living conditions. In the 20th century, Latin America, Africa and Asia saw dramatic drops in mortality. 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 was the population of the United States in 2015? **d) 321 million**

Only two countries in the world, China and India, have a higher population than the U.S. Next on the list is Indonesia, with a population of roughly 256 million.

7. True or False. Now that the U.S. has reached the fertility rate of 1.9 children per family, all U.S. population growth is due to immigration. **False.**

An average of 1.9 children per family is below the replacement level fertility rate. However, growth will not stop until births and deaths equal each other. Currently, there are many more births than deaths, about 1.5 million more in 2012. The growth due to immigration is difficult to track due to a lack of reliable numbers on undocumented immigrants. According to the nonpartisan Pew Research Center, new immigrants and their U.S. born descendants accounted for 51 percent of the population increase (68 million people) from 1980 to 2005. Since then, net international migration is estimated to have accounted for roughly 30 percent of the annual U.S. population growth.¹

8. Which of the following countries has the highest teen pregnancy rate? **b. U.S.**

At 3 percent in 2012, the U.S. still has the highest rate of teen pregnancy among industrialized countries. 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 approximately how much of the world's energy? **c) 20 percent**

Although 98 percent of global population growth is currently occurring in less developed countries, Americans place disproportionately greater demands on world resources. In total, the average American consumed 4 times more energy than the average global citizen, 4 times more than the average Chinese person, and nearly 16 times more than the average Indian. It could easily be argued that a resident of the U.S. has a much greater impact on the quality of the global environment than a person living in any other part of the world.