



Pop Quiz

- 1. What is the world population in 2023?**
a) 1 billion b) 3.8 billion c) 8 billion d) 9.2 billion e) 11 billion
- 2. By approximately how many people does the world grow each year?**
a) 10 million b) 26 million c) 41 million d) 75 million e) 168 million
- 3. Which world region has the most people?**
a) Africa b) Asia c) Europe d) North America e) South America
- 4. Which world region is experiencing the fastest population growth?**
a) Africa b) Asia c) Europe d) North America e) South America
- 5. True or False: There is a population explosion in the world today.**
- 6. Which has NOT been a major cause of the global population growth over the past two centuries?**
a) an increase in birth rates b) modern preventive medicine c) improved sanitation
d) lower infant mortality e) longer life expectancy
- 7. Worldwide, what percentage of pregnancies are unintended?**
a) 18% b) 28% c) 38% d) 48%
- 8. A megacity has a population of over 10 million people. How many megacities are there in the world?**
a) 15 b) 21 c) 29 d) 34 e) 52
- 9. What is the population of the United States in 2023?**
a) 60 million b) 81 million c) 127 million d) 336 million e) 495 million
- 10. True or False: Now that the U.S. fertility rate (1.7 children per woman) is well below replacement level, all U.S. population growth is due to immigration.**
- 11. The United States, which makes up about 4% of the world's population, consumes approximately how much of the world's energy?**
a) 5% b) 11% c) 17% d) 34% e) 39%

Pop Quiz | Answers

1. What is the world population in 2023? c) 8 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) 75 million

The current population growth rate is about 1 percent, a decrease from a high of 2.2 percent in the early 1960s. To calculate the world's growth rate, subtract the death rate (currently 8 per 1,000) from the birth rate (currently 17 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. Which world region has the most people? b) Asia

Asia is home to 60 percent of the world's population and includes the two most populous countries, India and China (each with approximately 1.4 billion people).

4. Which world region is experiencing the fastest population growth? a) Africa

Africa's population is currently growing at 2.5 percent each year. The continent's population is expected to double in about 35 years. Most of this growth is occurring in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

5. 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. Global population reached 2 billion in 1927 (123 years later); 3 billion in 1960 (33 years); 4 billion in 1974 (14 years); 5 billion in 1987 (13 years); 6 billion in 1998 (11 years); and 7 billion in 2010 (12 years). World population topped 8 billion in 2022 (12 years later). The population had been growing ever faster through the 19th and much of the 20th centuries, but the growth rate is now decreasing. Demographers at the UN project continued growth (albeit slower) through this century before stabilizing at 10-11 billion people.

6. Which has NOT been a major cause of the global population growth over the past two centuries? 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. Death rates in Western Europe dropped during the Industrial Revolution (beginning in the 1700s), and later in North America due to industrialization and urbanization. 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 the decline in these areas, rapid growth resulted.

7. Worldwide, what percentage of pregnancies are unintended? d) 48%

According to research compiled by the Guttmacher Institute and several UN agencies, nearly half of all pregnancies are unintended. This is fairly consistent across income groups around the world. Just over half of married women of childbearing age (15-49) report using modern methods of family planning.¹

8. A megacity has a population of over 10 million people. How many megacities are there in the world? c) 34

Megacities are a recent phenomenon. In the mid-20th century, there were only two: New York City and Tokyo. Today, there are 34, with an expected 43 megacities by 2030. All major global regions except Oceania contain megacities. Most of the cities that have reached the 10 million marker in recent years are located in Asia and Africa.

9. What is the population of the United States in 2023? d) 336 million

10. True or False: Now that the U.S. fertility rate is well below replacement level (1.7 children per woman), all U.S. population growth is due to immigration. False

An average of 1.7 children per family is below the replacement level fertility rate (2.1). However, growth will not stop until births and deaths are equal. Currently, there are more births than deaths, about 900,000 more in 2020. The growth due to immigration is difficult to track due to a lack of reliable numbers on undocumented immigrants. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, net international migration accounted for roughly 30 percent of U.S. population growth in the decade 2010–2019.

11. The United States, which makes up about 4% of the world's population, consumes approximately how much of the world's energy? c) 17%

The U.S. places disproportionately greater demands on world resources, even though its share of future global population growth is minute. The average person in the U.S. consumes 4 times more energy than the average global citizen, 3 times more than the average person in China, and 11 times more than the average person in India. 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.

Sources: Lancet Global Health, National Center for Health Statistics (CDC), Our World in Data, Pew Research Center, Population Reference Bureau, UN Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau

¹ Bearak, J., et al., (2020, July 22). Unintended pregnancy and abortion by income, region, and the legal status of abortion: estimates from a comprehensive model for 1990–2019, *Lancet Global Health*, DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(20\)30315-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30315-6)