There are many noteworthy children’s books containing themes about environmental stewardship and social justice. Here is a selected bibliography of those works of children’s literature that we recommend to enhance the teaching of some of Population Connection’s activities for the K-5 classroom.

**Agatha’s Feather Bed: Not Just Another Wild Goose Story** by Carmen Agra Deedy (author) and Laura L. Seely (illustrator); Peachtree Publishers, 1994. 28 pp.

When Agatha buys a new feather bed and six angry naked geese show up to get their feathers back, the incident reminds her to think about where things come from.

**Activity Matches:** “Comparing Needs and Wants,” “Mining for Chocolate”

**All the Way to the Ocean** by Joel Harper (author) and Marq Spusta (illustrator); Freedom Three Publishing, 2006. 32 pp.

Two young boys discover that the pollutants dumped down their neighborhood storm drains impact the health of the world’s rivers, lakes, and oceans.

**Activity Matches:** “Who Polluted the Potomac?,” “Who Polluted the River?”

**Beatrice’s Goat** by Page McBrier (author) and Lori Lohstoeter (illustrator); Athenium Books for Young Readers, 2001. 40 pp.

Based on the true account of one family in Uganda who received aid from Heifer Project International, this inspirational book tells of how a goat changed a family’s life for the better, including enabling the children to attend school.

**Activity Matches:** “Global Cents”

**Can We Save the Tiger?** by Martin Jenkins (author) and Vicky White (illustrator); Candlewick Press, 2011. 56 pp.

Learn about endangered species, how they become endangered, and ways people are trying to prevent their extinction.

**Activity Matches:** “Wanted Alive,” “Pondering Pandas”

**Children of the Earth...Remember** by Shim Schimmel (author); Northword Press, 1997. 22 pp.

Here is a tender lesson of sharing and protecting the Earth, enhanced with stunning artwork. It helps children understand how we are related to other living things.

**Activity Matches:** “Lend a Hand to the Earth,” “Web of Life”

**Children Just Like Me: A Unique Celebration of Children Around the World** by Barnabas and Anabel Kindersley (authors); DK Children, 1995. 80 pp.

Through hundreds of photographs and detailed descriptions of everyday life, kids learn about the homes, schools, customs, families, clothing, and experiences of their peers around the world.

**Activity Matches:** “Global Cents”

Population Connection, 2016
**City Green** by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan (author and illustrator); HarperCollins Publishers, 1994. 32 pp.
A young girl named Marcy decides to transform the littered vacant lot in her neighborhood, making the space not only beautiful but useful as well.

**Activity Matches:** “Green Spaces”

**The Cod’s Tale** by Mark Kurlansky (author) and S.D. Schindler (illustrator); G.P. Putnam’s Sons (Puffin Books), 2001. 48 pp.
This picture book summarizes the story of the Atlantic cod through American history, from its heyday as a leading source of seafood to its depletion from industrial fishing techniques.

**Activity Matches:** “Something for Everyone”

**Common Ground: The Water, Air and Earth We Share** by Molly Bang (author and illustrator); Scholastic, Inc., 1997. 32 pp.
This parable about sheep and the Commons where they graze demonstrates the impacts of our daily actions and the value of working together to preserve common ground.

**Activity Matches:** “Earth: The Apple of Our Eye,” “Something for Everyone”

**Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth** by Mary McKenna Siddals (author) and Ashley Wolff (illustrator); Tricycle Press, 2010. 32 pp.
A rhyming book that teaches young chefs the ingredients of a compost pile.

**Activity Matches:** “Earth Cookie,” “Scraps into Soil”

**Coral Reefs** by Jasin Chin (author and illustrator); Roaring Brook Press, 2011. 40 pp.
A young girl visits a library and opens a book about coral reefs, and finds herself instantly transported, getting an up-close and personal look at the organisms that live, hunt, and hide there.

**Activity Matches:** “Habitat Scramble,” “Pondering Pandas,” “Web of Life”

**The Curious Garden** by Peter Brown (author and illustrator); Little Brown Books for Young Readers, 2009. 40 pp.
While out exploring, a young boy discovers an abandoned garden atop an old railroad trestle and decides to take care of it, transforming the once dreary place into a beautiful garden. This book is inspired by the true story of the High Line Park, developed on an old railroad structure in New York City.

**Activity Matches:** “Green Spaces”
Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin (author) and Harry Bliss (illustrator); HarperCollins Publishers, 2003. 40 pp.

A perfect combination of entertainment and earthworm facts- your students will be captivated by the diary entries of this story's main character, a worm.

Activity Matches: “Earth Cookie,” “Scraps into Soil”

A Drop Around the World by Barbara Shaw McKinney (author) and Michael S. Maydak (illustrator); Dawn Publications (CA), 1998. 32 pp.

An “out of sight” journey from Maine to Mumbai, this story follows one raindrop as it touches plant, animal, and human life all around the world. Traveling with Drop, readers will see the world, inside and out, from solid, liquid, and vaporous viewpoints.

Activity Matches: “Every Drop Counts,” “Water, Water Everywhere”

Earth Dance by Joanne Ryder (author) and Norman Gorbaty (illustrator); Henry Holt and Co., 1999. 32 pp.

Artistic prose invites readers to “become” the earth and inspires young students to care for our precious home.

Activity Matches: “Earth Cookie,” “Lend a Hand to the Earth”

Even an Octopus Needs a Home by Irene Kelly (author and illustrator); Holiday House, 2011. 32 pp.

A fantastic picture book about animals and their habitats. Intriguing illustrations identify the type of home used by each animal and invite the reader inside.

Activity Matches: “Habitat Scramble,” “Web of Life”


A gentle tale about a woodland community that must find a new home when urban development encroaches on their home.


This excellent reference book for young people uses engaging photos, graphs, and maps to explore physical and human geography including human population, ecosystems, natural resources, climate change, and more.

Activity Matches: “Look it Up!”

Population Connection, 2016
The Good Garden: How One Family Went From Hunger to Having Enough by Katie Smith Milway (author) and Sylvie Daigneault (Illustrator); Kids Can Press, 2010. 32 pp.

A teacher arrives at Maria Luz’s school in rural Honduras and teaches her how to restore and care for the soil on her family’s small farm. Using the farming practices she learns, like composting and crop rotation, Maria is able to feed her family while also nourishing the soil.

Activity Matches: “Earth: The Apple of Our Eye,” “Scraps into Soil”


Similar to the picture book by Demi used in the activity “Double Take” but set in China, this longer version of the story is written for older elementary students to read.

Activity Matches: “Double Take”


These colorful books of photos help train the eye and mind to estimate quantities—everything from jellybeans in a jar to a crowd of people in a pool.

Activity Matches: “How Many Fish in the Sea?,” “Millions and Billions”

The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest by Lynne Cherry (author and illustrator); Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1990. 40 pp.

An inspired look at what the Kapok tree means to the creatures that live in it and what rainforests mean to the world’s ecology.


Hey, Little Ant by Phillip and Hannah Hoose (authors) and Debbie Tilley (Illustrator); Tricycle Press, 1998. 32 pp.

“Hey, little ant.” So begins a conversation between a young child and the ant trembling in the shadow of his sneaker. This playful story brings up questions about ethics and peer pressure, encouraging the very youngest citizens to decide for themselves: to squish... or not to squish?

Activity Matches: “What Would You Do?”

Home by Jeannie Baker (author and illustrator); HarperCollins Publishers, 204. 32 pp.

This wordless picture book observes the changes in a neighborhood from before a girl is born until she is an adult, as it first decays and then is renewed by the efforts of the residents. A great complement to Baker’s book, Window.

Activity Matches: “Crowding Can Be Seedy,” “Our Town”
Little Groundhog learns how to plant, tend, and harvest his own vegetable garden in this beautifully illustrated book that teaches children about the gardening process.

Activity Matches: “Crowding Can Be Seedy”

How Much is a Million? by David M. Schwartz (author) and Steven Kellogg (illustrator); Scholastic Books, 1985. 40 pp.
Through imaginative illustrations, How Much is a Million? strives to provide children with tangible ways to grasp what exactly a million (and a billion) of something might look like.

Activity Matches: “Millions and Billions,” “Double Take”

The creative team behind the best-selling Material World presents a photographic study of families from around the world, revealing what people eat during the course of one week. Each family’s profile includes a detailed description.

Activity Matches: “Earth: The Apple of Our Eye”

If America Were a Village: A Book about the People of the United States by David J. Smith (author) and Shelagh Armstrong (illustrator); Kids Can Press Ltd, 2000. 32 pp.
This timely follow-up to If the World Were a Village offers a thought-provoking perspective on the people who make up America, using the simple metaphor of a village of 100 people.

Activity Matches: “Our Town”

If Everybody Did by Jo Ann Stover (author and illustrator); Bob Jones University Press, 1989. 48 pp.
Through delightful pen and ink drawings, the author shows the funny and disastrous consequences of what would happen if everyone did their own thing (like making a big splash or slamming the door).

Activity Matches: “Creatures in Motion,” “Lend a Hand to the Earth”

Population Connection, 2016
**If the World Were a Village: A Book about the World’s People** by David J. Smith (author) and Shelagh Armstrong (illustrator); Kids Can Press Ltd, 2000. 32 pp.

Using the metaphor of a village of 100 people, the author presents global statistics on demographics, culture, education, lifestyle, and religion that all ages can understand.

**Activity Matches:** “Global Cents”

**Is a Blue Whale the Largest Thing There Is?** by Robert Wells (author and illustrator); Albert Whitman and Co., 1993. 32 pp.

In this exciting book of size and proportion, “Very Big Things” are explored with “Very Big Numbers.” Did you know that more than one million of our earths would fit inside the sun?

**Activity Matches:** “How Many Fish in the Sea?,” “Millions and Billions”

**Just Enough and Not Too Much** by Kaethe Zemach (author and illustrator); Scholastic Press, 2003. 32 pp.

Simon the fiddler decides he needs more; more chairs, more hats, more stuffed animals until he discovers that his house is too full and must think of a way to get back to having just enough.

**Activity Matches:** “Comparing Needs and Wants”

**The King’s Chessboard** by David Birch (author) and Devis Grebu (illustrator); Penguin Books, 1993. 32 pp.

Along the same theme as *A Grain of Rice* but the numerical doubling pattern is extended further, using the 64 squares on a chessboard.

**Activity Matches:** “Double Take,” “Millions and Billions”


By peering into the daily lives of children around the globe, this book highlights the fact that although lives around the world can be very different, many children share the same needs and hopes.

**Activity Matches:** “Comparing Needs and Wants,” “Global Cents”

**The Little House** by Virginia Lee Burton (author and illustrator); Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1942. 44 pp.

This Caldecott Medal winner from the author of *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* tells the story of a cozy country home that passes through the seasons, becomes engulfed by urban sprawl and is subsequently restored to a suitably rural setting.

**Activity Matches:** “Our Town”

Population Connection, 2016
The Lorax by Dr. Suess (author and illustrator); Random House, 1971. 70 pp.
Dr. Suess, speaking through his character the Lorax, warns against mindless progress and the danger it poses to the earth’s natural beauty. Children will enjoy the colorful characters and rhyming verse and adults will appreciate the subtle messages about the negative effects of deforestation, habitat destruction, and air and water pollution.


The Magic School Bus and the Climate Challenge by Joanna Cole (author) and Bruce Degen (illustrator); Scholastic Press, 2010. 48 pp.
Join Ms. Fizzle and her class as they travel the globe to learn about the causes and consequences of global warming.

Activity Matches: “Catching Pollution”

This is a photographic look at 30 families around the world, their homes and possessions. This coffee-table size book includes brief but compelling narratives and fascinating statistics about these 30 countries, the energy they use, population size, income, etc.

Activity Matches: “Global Cents,” “Comparing Needs and Wants,” “When the Chips Are Down”

A Million Dots by Andrew Clements (author) and Mike Reed (illustrator); Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2006. 48 pp.
With one million dots printed on its pages, this large-format picture book shows how big a million really is. Along the way, the text and illustrations offer plenty to look at and think about besides the rows and rows of tiny dots, including lots of fun numerical facts.

Activity Matches: “How Many Fish in the Sea?,” “Millions and Billions”

It’s Mine! by Leo Lionni (author); Dragonfly Books, 1996. 32 pp.
A story about three frogs living together on an island who argue constantly. A bad storm and a big brown toad help them realize that sharing is much more fun.

Activity Matches: “Go Fish”

My Diary From Here to There/ Mi diario de aqui hasta alla by Amanda Irma Perez (author) and Maya Christina Gonzalez (illustrator); Children’s Book Press, 2009. 32 pp.
In this bilingual book, follow Amanda on her family’s journey from Mexico to Los Angeles, where greater opportunity awaits. Through her diary, discover Amanda’s fears, hopes, and dreams surrounding her immigration to the United States.

Activity Matches: “Family Roots”

Students can learn a lot about their individual footprints and how simple actions can do much to conserve earth’s resources and green the planet. Full of interesting facts and figures, experiments, links to organizations, websites, and more.


A New Coat for Anna by Harriet Ziesert (author) and Anita Lobel (illustrator); Dragonfly Books, 1988. 40 pp.

In this moving story set during World War II, a mother trades her few valuables to a sheep farmer, spinner, and tailor so that her daughter can have a coat.

Activity Matches: “Comparing Needs and Wants”

On Beyond a Million: An Amazing Math Journey by David M. Schwartz (author) and Paul Meisel (illustrator); Dragonfly Books, 1999. 32 pp.

This “math journey” progresses exponentially as kids try to keep up with the yields of an out-of-control popcorn machine. Professor X teaches them to count by powers of 10, demonstrating up to a googol. Filled with fun facts.

Activity Matches: “Adding Armadillos,” “Millions and Billions,” “Multiplying Mice,” “Population Riddles”


In this traditional tale from India, a reward of one grain of rice doubles day by day into millions of grains of rice when a selfish raja is outwitted by a clever village girl.

Activity Matches: “Adding Armadillos,” “Millions and Billions,” “Multiplying Mice”

One Hen by Katie Smith Milway (author) and Eugenie Fernandes (illustrator); Kids Can Press, Limited, 2008. 32 pp.

_One Hen_ tells the true story of how a little boy in Ghana named Kojo uses a small loan from a neighbor to buy a chicken that ends up lifting the family, as well as Kojo’s entire village, out of hard times.

Activity Matches: “Global Cents”

One Small Square books by Donald M. Silver (author) and Patricia J. Wynne (illustrator); McGraw Hill, 1997. 48 pp.

These beautiful picture books show everything living in a square of a specific habitat. The species are identified in the back of the books and put into classification groups. The series includes the following habitats: Woods, Cave, Swamp, Pond, Seashore, Backyard, Coral Reef, Arctic Tundra, Tropical Rain Forest, Cactus Desert, and African Savanna.

Activity Matches: “Habitat Scramble,” “Web of Life”

Population Connection, 2016
One Well: The Story of Water on Earth by Rochelle Strauss (author) and Rosemary Woods (illustrator); Kids Can Press, 2007. 32 pp.

Every raindrop, lake, underground river, and glacier is part of a single global well. Discover the many ways water is used around the world and what kids can do to protect it.

Activity Matches: “Water, Water Everywhere,” “Every Drop Counts”

One World, One Day by Barbara Kelly (author); National Geographic Children’s Books, 2009. 48 pp.

A photo book following the course of one day around the world - students will see the daily lives of other children from different places, starting with waking up and all the way to bedtime.


Pass the Energy, Please! by Barbara McKinney (author) and Chad Wallace (illustrator); Dawn Publications, 1999. 32 pp.

McKinney presents the ecological food chain in an upbeat rhyming story connecting herbivores, carnivores, insects and plants.

Activity Matches: “Panther Hunt,” “Web of Life”

The Quiltmaker’s Gift by Jeff Brumbeau (author) and Gail de Marcken (illustrator); Scholastic Press, 2001. 56 pp.

In this beautifully illustrated tale, an old woman makes spectacular quilts to give to people in need. The king desperately wants one, but she will only grant his request if he shows generosity to others.

Activity Matches: “Helping Hands”


A girl must save her town from cotton-tail chaos by figuring out the Fibonacci Sequence.

Activity Matches: “Multiplying Mice,” “Adding Armadillos”

The Red Bicycle by Jude Isabella (author) and Simone Shin (illustrator); Kids Can Press, 2015. 32 pp.

The story of a bicycle that travels from the United States to Burkina Faso in a donation program. Students can see how a simple donation is repurposed over and over again in this colorful book.

Activity Matches: “Globl Cents,” “Waste Not, Want Not”
This Child, Every Child: A Book About the World’s Children by David J. Smith (author) and Shelagh Armstrong (illustrator); Kids Can Press, 2011. 36 pp.

By providing stories and statistics of children around the world, This Child, Every Child draws students beyond their own borders and provides a glimpse of what life is like for children in faraway places.

Activity Matches: “Global Cents”

Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts (author) and Nora Z. Jones (illustrator); Candlewick Press, 2009. 40 pp.

Jeremy desperately wants a new pair of sneakers - the ones that all his friends at school are wearing. When his grandma tells him that they don’t have room for a “want” only a “need,” Jeremy learns a difficult but valuable lesson.

Activity Matches: “Comparing Needs and Wants”
Tree of Life: The Incredible Biodiversity of Life on Earth by Rochelle Strauss (author) and Margot Thompson (illustrator); Kids Can Press, 2013. 40 pp.

A dazzling, illustrated introduction into biodiversity featuring a plethora of the other species inhabiting the planet aside from ourselves.

Activity Matches: “A World of Difference: Madagascar”

Two of Everything by Lily Toy Hong (author and illustrator); Albert Whitman and Company, 1993. 32 pp.

In this funny Chinese folktale for younger students, a farmer and his wife discover a magic brass pot that doubles everything that drops inside.

Activity Matches: “Double Take”

Under One Rock: Bugs, Slugs, and Other Ughs and In One Tidepool: Crabs, Snails, and Salty Tails by Anthony D. Fredericks (author) and Jennifer DiRubbio (illustrator); Dawn Publications, 2001. 32 pp.

These picture books include rhyming text and field notes for young readers to explore small habitats teeming with life.

Activity Matches: “Habitat Scramble,” “Web of Life”

Under the Lemon Moon by Edith Hope Fine (author) and Rene King Moreno (illustrator); Lee and Low Books, 2002. 32 pp.

When Rosalinda discovers that someone is stealing the lemons from her prized tree to sell in the market, she seeks the advice of a wise spirit who givers her an idea for saving her tree and helping the desperate thief.

Activity Matches: “Helping Hands”

Uno’s Garden by Graeme Base (author and illustrator); Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2006. 40 pp.

This picture book for early elementary grades shows how a forest slowly disappears due to urban development.

Activity Matches: “Habitat Scramble,” “More or Less”


Young students will be inspired by this true story of Wangari Maathai, a woman whose commitment to planting trees has transformed the landscape and the lives of village women in Kenya.

Activity Matches: “Timber!”
The Wartville Wizard by Don Madden (author and illustrator); Simon and Schuster, 1993. 32 pp.

In this humorous ecological tale, an old man fights a town of litterbugs by magically sending each piece of trash to stick on the person who dropped it.

Activity Matches: “Lend a Hand to the Earth,” “Who Polluted the Potomac?,” “Who Polluted the River?”


This easy-to-follow guide provides step-by-step instructions for reusing a number of household items. With kid-friendly words and pictures, this book is sure to inspire creative, “green” projects!

Activity Matches: “Waste Not, Want Not”


On a camping trip in an Australian rain forest with his father, a young boy thinks about the history of the plant and animal in life around him and wonders about their future.

Activity Matches: “Who Polluted the Potomac?”

Why Should I Save Energy? by Jen Green (author) and Mike Gordon (illustrator); Barron’s Educational Series, 2005. 32 pp.

A story about a family who took the amount of energy they use for granted until a day their community has an energy black out. This book explains how things we use every day use energy and explores simple things that kids can do to save energy or use it efficiently.

Activity Matches: “Energy Imagery”


Window chronicles the events and changes in a young boy’s life and in his environment, from babyhood to adulthood, through wordless scenes observed from the window of his room.

Activity Matches: “More or Less”


Set on an island in Northern Ontario, the Wolf Island story, which is based on an actual event, is a moving chronicle of what happens when the highest link in a food chain is removed. The resultant population growth, food shortage, and starvation affect every member of the chain.

Activity Matches: “Panther Hunt,” “Web of Life”

This eye-catching, oversize book looks at what happens during the course of a 24-hour day on earth. From the global to the microscopic, scale illustrations place a myriad of amazing facts in an accessible perspective, including information on births, deaths, wildlife, food consumption, and waste production.

**Activity Matches:** “Earth: The Apple of Our Eye,” “Oh! How We've Grown”

**The Wump World** by Bill Peet (author and illustrator); Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1981. 48 pp.

The Wumps lead a bucolic life until one day they are invaded by the Pollutians, who have overdeveloped and destroyed their own world. After the Pollutians have left behind a mess of Wump World, the Wumps need to rebuild from their remaining patch of green.

**Activity Matches:** “More or Less,” “Lessons from the Lorax”

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**List of Activities:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Language Arts (LA);</td>
<td>Math (M); Science (Sc); Social Studies (SS)</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td>Millions on Billions</td>
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**Teaching Population Activities**

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<td>K-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multiplying Mice</td>
<td>M, Sc</td>
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<td>Our Town</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waste Not, Want Not</td>
<td>Sc, SS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water, Water Everywhere</td>
<td>M, Sc, SS</td>
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<td>Web of Life</td>
<td>LA, Sc, SS</td>
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<tr>
<td>What Would You Do?</td>
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<tr>
<td>When the Chips Are Down</td>
<td>SS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who Polluted the Potomac?</td>
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<td>Who Polluted the River?</td>
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<tr>
<td>A World of Difference: Madagascar</td>
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**Teaching Population Activities**

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mining for Chocolate</td>
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<td>More or Less</td>
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<td>Multiplying Mice</td>
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<td>Panther Hunt</td>
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<td>Population Riddles</td>
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Population Connection, 2016