

Human Population and Carrying Capacity WebQuest

This activity is designed for you to see how the population of the Earth continues to change over the course of time. At some point in time the carrying capacity of the Earth may be reached. Use the links below to discover more about the human carrying capacity as well as to answer the corresponding questions.

Click here: <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/popclockworld.html>

1. What is the current world population? (The world population is listed on the left side of the screen)
2. What is the current U.S. population? (The U.S. population is listed on the left side of the screen)

Click here: <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/popclock>

3. What is the exact time right now? (Listed in Coordinated Universal Time, add 5 hours to this to make it EST)
4. What is the U.S. population right now? (List the figure listed in red)

Click Here: <http://www.demographia.com/db-2000stater.htm>

5. Where is California ranked among state populations?
6. Where is Georgia ranked among state populations
7. What percent of people in the US live in California?
8. What percent of people in the US live in Georgia?

Click on the topic "Animated Map" and watch. <http://desip.igc.org/mapanim.html>

9. Where in the world did the human population appear to start? (Start the animation at the beginning, I am looking for the continent name)
10. What was the world population in 1985?
11. What is the expected world population in 2020?

Most countries are trying to reduce their growth rate. Zero population growth means that as many people are being born as there are dying. To achieve zero population growth, each couple would need to have no more than two children (to replace the parents). Even if this number is achieved, the population will continue to grow because the parents will still live on for decades, as their children have children, and their children have children..... The rate of growth in developed nations has become more constant in recent years, while many developing nations are still growing exponentially.

Click here for a list of least developed countries: <http://www.un.org/special-rep/ohrls/lcd/list.htm>

- Click on the current list of least developed countries
- At the top of the page, there is a link to click on that says Least Developed Countries
- A drop down menu appears then click on about LDC's
- Select any of the countries listed

12. Select four countries from the list and find the following data:

- a) Country:
- b) Population:
- c) Surface area:
- d) Population density:
- e) Country:
- f) Population:
- g) Surface area:
- h) Population density

- i) Country:
- j) Population:
- k) Surface area:
- l) Population density
- m) Country:
- n) Population:
- o) Surface area:
- p) Population density

Click on the following link: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/13/13139.html>

- 12. What is the population of Hall County?
- 13. Based on the age of the population will Hall be faced with an increase or decrease in population?

Human Numbers Through Time:: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/worldbalance/numbers.html>

- Launch the Interactive (click button to the right and follow the steps):

<u>Year</u>	<u>Human Population</u>
0 A.D.	
1000	
1800	
1927	
1960	
1974	
1987	
1999	
2050	

- 11. In AD 1000, what caused the decline of population in Europe?
- 12. In the 18th century, what raised the living standards and spurred population growth
- 13. In the mid 1900's what profoundly increased human life expectancy?
- 14. In the 1970's, what helped curb population growth?
- 15. Where will nearly all of the further human population growth take place in the world?
- 16. What is the foreseeable problem with this?

Go back to the US population data: <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/popclock>

- 17. What is the exact time right now?
- 18. How many minutes have elapsed since you answered question # 2?
- 19. What is the US population right now?
- 20. What was the gain in US population while you have been working on this activity?
- 21. What has been the gain in population per minute over this activity? Show your work.
- 22. What was the population gain per second over this activity?