

English 11

Week 2 Optional Educational Activities

Weekly Mindfulness Writing Prompts

Directions: Respond to each of the prompts in a brief paragraph (or list if directed). There is no limit on how much you can write.

These prompts are meant to stimulate the mindfulness part of your brain. Allow yourself the time and space to think through the prompts and answer authentically and honestly.

Prompt #1: Think about your life, your values, and your goals. If you had to develop a “motto” or “words to live by,” what would they be? It should be a phrase. Describe why you chose that phrase. The words I'd like to live by are:

Prompt #2: Everybody can improve. What's one topic you need to learn more about to help you live a more fulfilling and successful life?

Prompt #3: Create a list! Develop a list of 10-15 things that make you smile. This could be anything, such as a comedian, a pet, a great memory, or a song. What makes you smile?

(To respond to these prompts, you can use:

- 1. Templates in the back of this packet*
- 2. Blank lined pages in the back of this packet)*

Weekly Reading and Writing Assignments

Directions: Read the assigned texts to gain an understanding of this week's topic and answer the questions at the end of the selection (some are multiple choice, some are writing). The answers to the multiple choice questions will be provided in next week's packet.

Topic for Week 2: Overpopulation

Articles for Week 2:

Text#1: With 250 babies born each minute, how many people can the Earth sustain? *The Guardian (2018)*

Text#2: Opinion: As China ends one-child rule, economists say more kids are alright *Project Syndicate (2016)*

Writing Prompts:

Prompt #1 - Synthesis prompt:

Read the "overpopulation" sources carefully. Then, in a response that synthesizes both of the sources for support, take a position that defends (agree) or challenges (disagree) the claim that overpopulation is a real problem, and drastic measures (such as the one-child policy) must be taken to help solve it.

Prompt #2 - Self reflection prompt:

Think about America and overpopulation. Do you believe that America has a problem with overpopulation? How does this topic (overpopulation) and the texts you've read support what you believe about overpopulation in America? Does the issue of overpopulation change your idea of a family and your own rights?

(To respond to these prompts, you can use:

- 1. Templates in the back of this packet*
- 2. Blank lined pages in the back of this packet)*

With 250 babies born each minute, how many people can the Earth sustain?

By Lucy Lamble, The Guardian, adapted by Newsela staff

Published: 05/07/2018

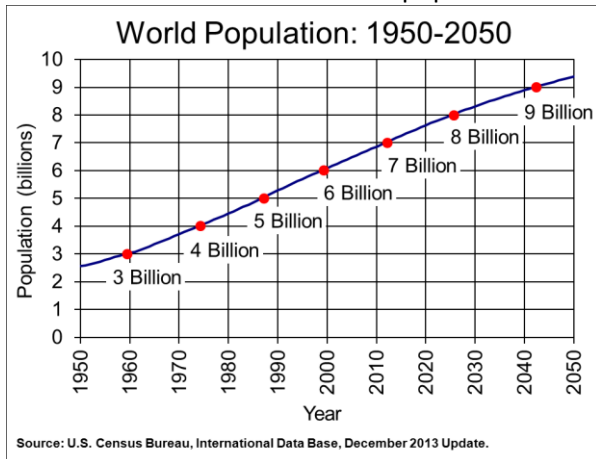
Word Count: 968

How Many People Are There In The World?

We don't know for sure as all figures are estimates. United Nations (U.N.) data suggests there were about a billion people in 1800, 2 billion in 1927, 5 billion in 1987 and just over 7.5 billion today.

There are on average about 250 babies born every minute; more than 130 million in a year. It is projected that there will be 11 billion people by 2100.

Since the 1960s, more boys than girls have been born every year. About 117 million women are believed to be "missing" in Asia and Eastern Europe due to the discriminatory preference for sons over daughters and gender-biased sex selection. How has the world's population increased?



Where Is The Population Rising Fastest – And Slowest?

Broadly speaking, the fastest population rises are being recorded in Africa and Asia, which will have 15 of the 20 most populous nations by 2050. By that year, there will be more Nigerians than Americans. By 2100, it is projected that as many as one-third of all people – almost 4 billion – will be African.

At the other end of the scale, population growth has stalled, and even reversed, in parts of Western Europe, Japan, and Russia.

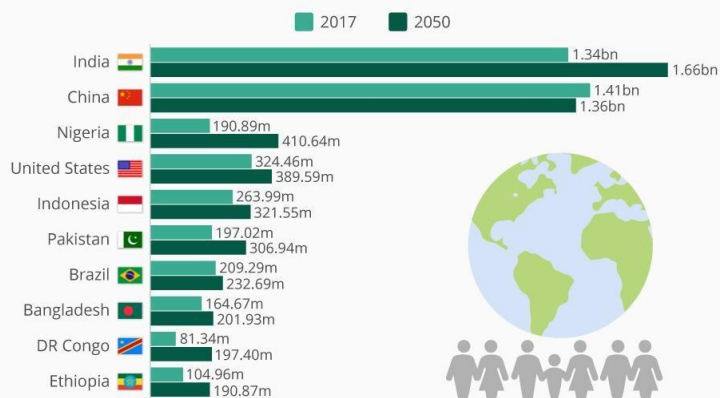
Are These Numbers Sustainable?

Which country will have the most people in 2050? This is a difficult question to answer. Population experts like Paul Ehrlich argue that the population of the world has long since surpassed optimal levels, though critics counter that consumption is as important as population levels.

Some believe the very argument about overpopulation is controversial. That's because it tends to point the finger at poorer parts of the world with large growth rates and not at richer regions that use disproportionately more resources.

The World's Most Populous Nations In 2050

Population in 2017 and forecast for 2050



Source: UN Population Division

Forbes statista

What Influences Fertility?

The fertility rate is the number of children born for every woman of childbearing age in a population. The things that tend to affect it include female empowerment, health care, technological and economic changes, and opportunities for family planning.

The level of education in a society – of women in particular – is one of the most important predictors for the number of children families have.

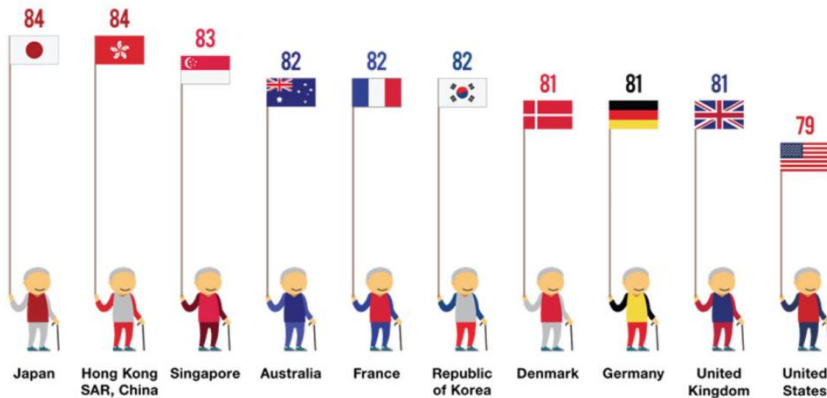
The global average fertility rate is just below 2.5 children per woman today. Over the last 50 years, the global fertility rate has halved, as some of these factors bore down on family sizes.

In the pre-modern era, fertility rates of 4.5 to 7 children per woman were common. At that time, high mortality rates of young people kept population growth low. As health improved, the population growth rate began to soar, only flattening out as the fertility rate declined toward 2 children per woman.

If Birthrates Have Fallen So Far, Why Is The Population Still Rising Fast?

Of course, fertility rates are just half the story. People are living longer – far longer in some parts of the world. About 55 million people die every year, which is less than half the number who are born.

The number of children who die before reaching their fifth birthday has fallen to an all-time low. At the same time, life expectancy is higher than 80 in 30 countries and higher than 70 in more than 100 countries. In which countries do people live the longest?



Source: World Bank Life Expectancy at Birth 2014

So What Is The Demographic Dividend?

Countries that do succeed in reducing fertility rates can benefit from something called a demographic dividend. This is where there are more people in the workforce than children to support.

Where you have a rapid decline in fertility, the younger population is no longer growing as fast. The economy should receive a boost because the number of workers per child increases, and that should provide a period of rapid economic growth. This was the experience in East Asian "tiger" countries like

South Korea and Taiwan in the 1970s. Now countries such as China and India are benefiting from a demographic dividend.

A consequence of falling child mortality but continuing high fertility is a "youth bulge" – a high population of young people. In Africa, this has led to significant youth unemployment.

A young population offers a lot of potential for the development of a country, but only if their talents are realized through investment. If there is little support given to young people to develop the skills they need as they enter the labor market, then the economy misses out.

Isn't It Problematic That Western Populations Are Declining?

Another global demographic shift is aging populations in developed countries such as Japan and Germany, and also in advanced developing countries. In these areas, the population over age 60 will triple by 2050.

This year, the number of people worldwide who are over 60 will rise above 1 billion for the first time. By 2050, it is forecast to be 2 billion, which raises the question: who will pay for them?

Falling birth rates can mean fewer young workers to cover the social support costs associated with aging.

But aging populations can be a cause for celebration because it means development has taken place.

If countries plan for the shift they can see gains. In Japan, for example, the introduction of universal health coverage meant more treatment for high blood pressure, and therefore fewer strokes, extending worker productivity.

What Next?

The funding battles over international family planning are ongoing. Family planning organizations are learning that to survive political shifts and budget cuts, they need to diversify their sources of funding. This means seeing family planning as not just a public health concern but also as a way to promote development.

Where women have control over their own fertility, there are gains well beyond their own families.

1. The CENTRAL idea of the article is developed by _____. Complete the sentence.

- A. describing what countries have done to ensure that their rising populations do not overuse important natural resources
- B. exploring the regions where the education of women has had a larger than average impact on the rate of population growth
- C. outlining the effects of the relationship between fertility and mortality on countries' populations and economies
- D. contrasting the causes of death that slowed population growth in the past with causes of death in the modern world

2. Read the following paragraph from the section "Isn't It Problematic That Western Populations Are Declining?"

This year, the number of people worldwide who are over 60 will rise above 1 billion for the first time. By 2050, it is forecast to be 2 billion, which raises the question: who will pay for them?

Which CENTRAL idea is BEST supported by this paragraph?

- A. Experts are concerned that some rising populations will put a strain on the world's resources.
- B. Countries that plan for changing and aging populations will see gains among all demographics.
- C. Declining fertility rates have led to a period of demographic dividends for some Asian countries.
- D. The level of education that a woman has is one factor that relates to the number of children she has.

3. Which section from the article would be best to use if you were looking for information on about the elderly population?

- A. So What Is The Demographic Dividend?
- B. What's Next?
- C. If Birthrates Have Fallen So Far, Why Is The Population Still Rising Fast?
- D. How Many People Are There In The World?

4. What additional information could be provided to increase your understanding of the problem? Graphs? Charts? Maps? Personal experiences? Something else? Write your answer, explain, and be specific.

The Answer Key for this
packet will be
included in the next packet.

Opinion: As China ends one-child rule, economists say more kids are alright

By Project Syndicate, adapted by Newsela staff

Published: 01/21/2016

Word Count: 899

LONDON, England – In the late 1970s, the Chinese government established a one-child policy in order to limit population growth. For almost four decades, families in China were only permitted to have one child. That policy has changed, now that lawmakers passed a law allowing families to have up to two children.



under the one-child policy will have to support two parents, without any help from siblings.

An Imbalanced Population

The social and economic consequences of the one-child policy have been dramatic. The rule reduced the average fertility rate for families living in cities from about three children per family in 1970 to just over one by 1982. By limiting the number of newborns, the policy has resulted in an imbalanced population, with more old people than young people.

The question now is whether the country's new policy will undo the effects of the one-child policy. The consequences of the new two-children policy are likely to be just as dramatic, and much more positive.

An Economic Boost?

The greatest benefits of the two-child policy will take time to appear, but some effects will become apparent soon. One major effect has to do with family spending and the Chinese economy. The new policy will likely lead to an increase in the number of children per household, which in turn will cause families to spend more money. This will mean that less money in China is saved and more is spent, boosting the country's economy.

Currently, the amount of money that is saved in China is unusually high, which some people think has negative economic effects worldwide, because China buys few goods from other countries. Moreover, the fact that Chinese people save so much of their money is a major obstacle for the country's economy. It forces Chinese companies to focus on selling goods to other countries, rather than selling goods and services within the country. The two-child policy could change this if it causes families to start spending more.

Aging Population Gets Shot Of Youth

The two-child policy will also change the balance of China's aging population. In 1970, 51 percent of people were under the age of 20, but in 2010, thanks in part to the one-child policy, only 27 percent were under 20. Meanwhile, the share of people aged 60 and up rose from 7 percent to 14 percent.

This has put pressure on today's younger generation, because as more and more elderly people retire, there are not enough working people to support them. For years, parents in China could only have one child. As a result, each adult born

Bringing Balance To The Labor Force

When the two-child generation becomes middle-aged, its members will each have to support only one elderly person, on average. This will restore some balance to China's population and economy. It will take a few decades, though, for children born under the new policy to start working. In the meantime, the post-1980s one-child generation will be supporting not only the elderly, but also a higher number of young people.

Although this will undoubtedly be tough for the one-child generation, increased spending will have immediate positive effects on the economy. Families with two children will have little choice but to spend much more than families with only one child. Economists can estimate how big a difference a second child makes by looking at how much money families with twins spent in recent years.

Piggy Banks To Slim Down?

Under the one-child law, some mothers ended up with two children instead of one when they gave birth to twins. In 2009, families who lived in cities and had twins saved 13 percent of their incomes, on average. In contrast, one-child families in cities saved an average of 21 percent of their incomes. In other words, having a second child meant that the parents of twins saved less of their money and spent more of it.

The added spending will undoubtedly affect some parts of the economy more than others. At first, the surge in the number of children will mean higher sales of children's books, toys, and bicycles. As that generation ages, demand for housing, life insurance, and medications will increase substantially.

Paying For School

One of the biggest impacts of the new policy will be spending on education. According to a 2009 survey of families living in cities, a one-child household in China spends an average of 11 percent of its total income on education, whereas a household with twins spends 17 percent. As the number of households with two children increases, this change alone could increase spending significantly.

There is, however, a catch. Having more children also means that families are likely to spend less per child on education. Most Chinese families under the old policy focused all of their resources on a single child. Having two children forces families to divide their resources, so the new two-child policy may mean that kids will start growing up with less support from their parents, on average. Indeed, the average twin in China receives far less support after age 15

than the average only child, creating large differences in education outcomes.

balancing the country's aging population, but it will also lead to increased spending, giving the economy a major boost.

Nonetheless, China's shift to a two-child policy is badly needed. Not only will it achieve the long-term goal of

1. Read the paragraph from the section "An Economic Boost?"

Currently, the amount of money that is saved in China is unusually high, which some people think has negative economic effects worldwide, because China buys few goods from other countries. Moreover, the fact that Chinese people save so much of their money is a major obstacle for the country's economy. It forces Chinese companies to focus on selling goods to other countries, rather than selling goods and services within the country. The two-child policy could change this if it causes families to start spending more.

How does using the phrase "unusually high" affect the tone of the sentence above?

- A. It conveys a serious tone emphasizing the abnormal economic situation created by China's previous one-child restriction.
- B. It conveys a hopeful tone illustrating the possibility that China's change to its one-child law could solve a worldwide economic crisis.
- C. It conveys an upbeat tone describing the exciting opportunities offered by the new Chinese economy in the wake of the law change
- D. It conveys a concerned tone highlighting the possibility that China's new child restriction may not solve the problems created by the old one.

2. Read this selection from the article.

In the late 1970s, the Chinese government established a one-child policy in order to limit population growth. For almost four decades, families in China were only permitted to have one child. That policy has changed, now that lawmakers passed a law allowing families to have up to two children.

Which of the following words from the article provides context clues as to the meaning of the word "policy"?

- A. population
- B. growth
- C. decades
- D. lawmakers

3. How does the author acknowledge a conflicting viewpoint in this article?

- A. by acknowledging the hardships faced by Chinese citizens under the one-child law
- B. by admitting that the change in law may make life more difficult for middle-aged individuals
- C. by sympathizing with the elderly individuals who do not have enough children to care for them
- D. by demonstrating that the change in law may not be enough to spike economic activity in China

4. Which excerpt MOST clearly reveals the author's perspective in this article?

- A. The social and economic consequences of the one-child policy have been dramatic. The rule reduced the average fertility rate for families living in cities from about three children per family in 1970 to just over one by 1982. By limiting the number of newborns, the policy has resulted in an imbalanced population, with more old people than young people.
- B. The two-child policy will also change the balance of China's aging population. In 1970, 51 percent of people were under the age of 20, but in 2010, thanks in part to the one-child policy, only 27 percent were under 20. Meanwhile, the share of people aged 60 and up rose from 7 percent to 14 percent.
- C. This has put pressure on today's younger generation, because as more and more elderly people retire, there are not enough working people to support them. For years, parents in China could only have one child. As a result, each adult born under the one-child policy will have to support two parents, without any help from siblings.
- D. Nonetheless, China's shift to a two-child policy is badly needed. Not only will it achieve the long-term goal of balancing the country's aging population, but it will also lead to increased spending, giving the economy a major boost.

Journal Prompt #1

Think about your life, your values, and your goals. If you had to develop a “motto” or “words to live by,” what would they be? It should be a phrase. Describe why you chose that phrase. The words I’d like to live by are:

Considering my life, values, and goals, the words that I choose to live by are: “ _____ ”

This would be my motto because _____

My motto helped in my life when _____

I think they could be useful to others because _____

My hope is that these words help others by _____

Journal Prompt #2

Everybody can improve. What's one topic you need to learn more about to help you live a more fulfilling and successful life?

I need to learn about _____ to live a more fulfilling and successful life. I don't know enough about this topic because _____

_____.

The reason I am interested in this topic is _____

_____.

If I knew more about _____, it would help my life by _____

_____.

I plan to learn more about it by _____

_____.

Journal Prompt #3

Create a list! Develop a list of 10-15 things that make you smile. This could be anything, such as a comedian, a pet, a great memory, or a song. What makes you smile?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

Name _____ Block _____ Date _____

Prompt #1 - Text analysis and synthesis prompt:

Read the “overpopulation” sources carefully. Then, in a response that synthesizes both of the sources for support, take a position that defends (agree) or challenges (disagree) the claim that overpopulation is a real problem, and drastic measures (such as the one-child policy) must be taken to help solve it.

After reading _____'s _____

(text #1's author's last name)

(text #1 title)

and _____'s _____,

(text #2's author's last name)

(text #2 title)

I _____ with the claim that overpopulation is a real problem and that drastic measures

(agree / disagree)

must be taken to help solve it.

One of the biggest reasons that _____ this claim is _____

(supports or challenges)

(1st reason you agree/disagree)

_____ **presents evidence in _____ that**

(author's name)

(title of text)

(text evidence that supports reason #1)

This is significant because _____

(elaborate more on text evidence - discuss or explain it further)

Another _____ **reason is** _____
(important/fundamental/critical) (2nd reason you agree/disagree)

According to _____
(source name and author's name)

(text evidence that supports reason #1)

This _____ **shows** _____
(data/evidence) (elaborate more on text evidence - discuss or explain it further)

(continue to elaborate on text evidence)

_____, **overpopulation** _____
(conclusion starter) (is / is not)

a serious problem and drastic measures _____ **to be taken to solve it,** _____
(need / do not need) (or else / because)

(restate reasons / consequences)

Name _____ Block _____ Date _____

Prompt #2 - Text to self reflection prompt:

Think about America and overpopulation. Do you believe that America has a problem with overpopulation? How does this topic (overpopulation) and the texts you've read support what you believe about overpopulation in America? Does the issue of overpopulation change your idea of a family and your own rights?

I _____ that America has a problem with overpopulation. Based on what I know
(believe / do not believe)
about the United States and overpopulation _____

(connections you've made after reading the texts, opinions/ideas you have about this topic, reasons for your belief from)

Another reason why I believe America _____ have an overpopulation issue is
(does / does not)

(opinions/ideas you have about this topic, reasons that your belief from above, text evidence from the articles you read, etc.)

My own relevant experience as has made me aware that _____

(relevant personal connection / example from your life, or your family, or people you know)

As I think about planning of my future and a potential family, I want to _____
(your plans to have / not have a family)

(Will you have children? How many? Are you willing to adopt/foster a child?)

This plan is influenced by _____
(reasons for your family plan to have/not have children/adopt/foster, expectations from your family, religious reasons, the texts you read)

For these reasons, I believe overpopulation _____ an issue in the United States and it
(is / is not)
_____ be taken into consideration by other Americans as they plan their families.
(should/should not)

