

Activity 7.1

Be a Demographer

Objective

This activity asks students to compare demographic data between the United States, Japan, Kenya, and India. It will help students build graphing and analysis skills, and increase familiarity with vocabulary related to demography.

Materials:

- Computer with internet access and a spreadsheet program

Procedure

1. Complete the online interactive entitled “Be a Demographer” at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/earth/demographic-data.html> . As you complete the activity, define the following demographic parameters and describe two factors that influence the parameter.

Parameter	Definition	Influences
Total Fertility Rate		1. 2.
Infant Mortality		1. 2.
Life Expectancy		1. 2.
Net Migration		1. 2.
Annual Growth Rate		1. 2.

2. Complete the table below using the data provided at the end of the activity.

Parameter	INDIA			JAPAN			KENYA			United States		
	1950	2000	2050	1950	2000	2050	1950	2000	2050	1950	2000	2050
Total Fertility Rate												
Infant Mortality												
Life Expectancy												
Aged 0-14/ +60												
Median Age												
Net Migration												
Annual Growth Rate												
Total Population												

3. Using a spreadsheet program, graph the following parameters for the years 1950, 2000, and 2050 for each country. Create different graphs to include all 4 countries for each of the following:
- Total Fertility Rate** (“Years” on the x-axis and “Average number of births per 1,000 women” on the Y-axis)
 - Infant Mortality** (“Years” on the x-axis and “Deaths under age 1 per 1,000” on the Y-axis)
 - Life Expectancy** (“Years” on the x-axis and “Age” on the y-axis)

Analysis Questions

1. Examine total fertility rates and compare this data to annual growth rates. Describe the correlation.
2. Explain how infant mortality rates are connected to total fertility rates? Which country has the highest IMR? What is the TFR?
3. What do infant mortality rates indicate about available healthcare?
4. Why would the demographic information regarding the population ages <15 be significant?
5. Provide three conclusions about Japan, India, Kenya and the United States that can be drawn from the data. Support your answer with specific examples from the statistics.