



INTERNATIONAL

EIGHT BILLION AND GROWING

— THE GLOBAL POPULATION HAS REACHED A NEW MILESTONE

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How does population growth happen? Explain.

2. What is the **replacement rate** of a population? Explain.

3. List at least four reasons why people are living longer.

4. In what year did the Earth's population reach one billion? Two billion? Three billion?

5. What important population milestone did the United Nations recently announce?

6. How many years did it take for the world's population to grow from seven billion to eight billion?

7. How many people does the UN predict will inhabit the Earth in 2080? What change to population growth is predicted at this time?

8. On which continent does most of the world's population live?

9. Which two countries have the most people? What trends do observers expect for these two countries?

10. Which region has the fastest population growth? By how much is the population in this region expected to increase?



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QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

1. The article states that "*by 2050, there will be twice as many people 65 and older as there are children under five. By 2050, the number of people aged 65+ will be about the same as the number of children under 12.*" As you see it, in what ways might this population shift affect the choices that nations make to accommodate an ageing population? Explain.

2. Wealthier countries with lower population growth rates are the biggest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. According to a 2020 analysis quoted in the article, the carbon emissions of the richest one percent of the global population were more than double the emissions of the poorest 50 percent of the population between 1990 and 2015. What are your impressions of this statistic? As you see it, what is the planet's best hope for lowering these emissions?

3. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stated, "*This year's World Population Day falls during a milestone year, when we anticipate the birth of the Earth's eight billionth inhabitant. This is an occasion to celebrate our diversity, recognize our common humanity, and marvel at advancements in health that have extended lifespans and dramatically reduced maternal and child mortality rates. At the same time, it is a reminder of our shared responsibility to care for our planet and a moment to reflect on where we still fall short of our commitments to one another.*" What do you think he means by this statement? In what ways can countries better meet their global commitments? Explain.
