

Activity 1 Population Trends

Many tools are available for measuring trends in population. Tables provide exact data about a variety of factors. Diagrams or graphs can provide information at a glance.

Working with a Table of Countries

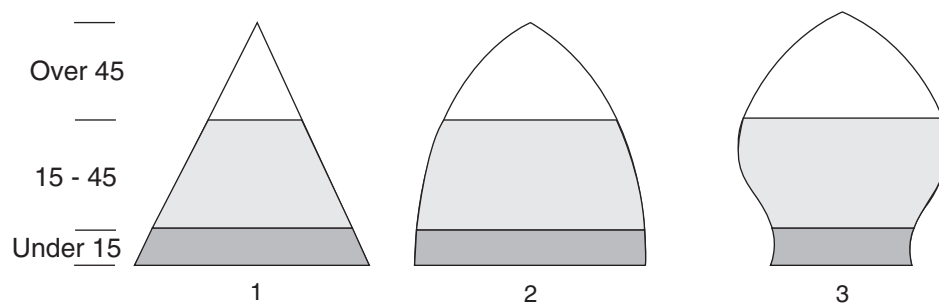
Factors such as birthrate, death rate, and the level of national development have an impact on the population trends of a country. Consult the Table of Countries on pages 742–753 of your textbook to answer the following questions.

Analyzing a Table

1. What happens to a population when the birthrate exceeds the death rate? Examine the summary information at the beginning of the table. Which category of countries has the greatest difference between birth and death rates?
2. **Population doubling time** is the time it takes for a population to double at its present rate of growth. Is doubling time usually shorter in developed nations or in developing nations? How does the population doubling time relate to future population density?
3. Latin America has one of the world's largest populations of people under age 15. What does this information suggest about the future growth of this region?

Working with Population Pyramids

Population pyramids provide a quick way to assess how rapidly or slowly a nation's population is growing. In the pyramids below, shaded areas show the breakdown of age groups for a given population. Study the shapes of the three pyramids. Pyramid 1, with a broad base of children under age 15, is typical of a population that is growing rapidly, as in Africa, Southeast Asia, and South America. In these places, each new generation is larger than the previous one. Pyramid 2 is typical of a fairly stable population.



Source: Gallant, Roy A. *The Peopling of Planet Earth* (New York: Macmillan, 1990), p. 105.

Analyzing Population Pyramids

4. According to the annual growth rates listed in the Table of Countries on pages 742–753 of your textbook, which countries would be best represented by pyramid 2?
5. What population growth pattern does pyramid 3 suggest? List three nations from the Table of Countries that might be represented by pyramid 3.