

Chapter 13.2: A Growing Human Population

- Earth has a carrying capacity between 4-16 billion
 - o Difficult to measure due to: technology, society
 - Green revolution, increased food production
 - o Humans consciously determine how many offspring they would like
 - o Predicted to stabilize around 10 billion
- For about 99% of history, all humans were:

Hunter-gatherers – people who obtain their food by hunting, fishing and gathering wild plants

- Moved from place to place following food
- Population usually remained small (25-50 ppl/group)
 - o Only about 1 million ppl on Earth when all ppl lived this way
- 10,000 years ago
 - o Started to raise animals and grow crops

Agricultural revolution – change from hunter-gatherer to farming.

- Agriculture did not originate in just 1 area
 - o Started in different places, but spread around world
- Produced more food than gathering
 - o Farming increased carrying capacity
 - o Food storing, stayed in one place
 - Survived cold winters/dry summers
- Population grew b/c more food
 - o Larger families better for farmers
- Population doubled from 1800-1930
- People lived longer = population grows faster
 - o Improved sanitation, nutrition, medical care
 - More people survived childhood
- Population is still growing, starting to slow down
 - o Birth rates have decreased in developed countries and in some developing countries
 - Latin America, Asia
- Frank Notestein
 - o Scientist of demography

Demography – study of human population patterns

- Created Theory of Demographic Transition
 - o Economic and social progress of the industrial revolution affects population growth in 3 stages:

- Both birth/death rates are high in preindustrial societies and the population grows slowly if at all
- When health care improves, population increases
 - Birth rates continue to be high and people are living longer
 - Population increases about 3% each year, meaning it doubles every 25 years and is 20x's its original size by the end of 100 years.
- Birth rates fall until they roughly equal death rates and population growth slows down and stops

Why do birth rates drop?

- Women gain formal education and enter workforce
 - Tend to postpone marriage and child bearing
- Parents realize children survive longer, want only as many as they can adequately support
- City dwellers see children as expensive responsibility
- Farmers now have machines, don't need workers
- Availability of reliable birth control allows parents to intentionally limit # of children

Some countries are still in stage 2

- Developing countries, the average # of births is still high
- Some countries the # of children per woman has dropped but population is still growing
 - HOW??
 - Large # of young children become parents
 - # children stays high even though per woman is low
- ***Most of increase in human population is happening in developing countries