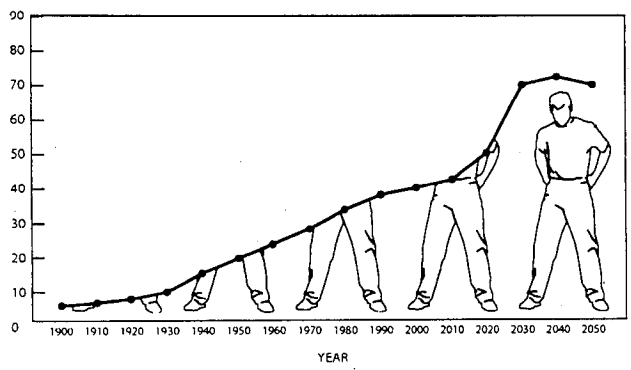


# The Changing Population

## WORD LIST

pop•u•la•tion	in•dus•try
de•vel•oped	life ex•pec•tan•cy
tech•nol•o•gy	ba•by boom•ers



The world's populations are changing. In most developed nations, they are getting smaller. (Developed nations are more advanced nations. They are richer than other countries. They also have more technology and industry. These nations include the U.S., Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and much of Europe.) At present, these countries have 11 births to 10 deaths. Soon they will average more deaths than births. There are already more deaths than births in much of Europe. This means their population is not stable. Today, there are 1.2 billion people in developed countries. By 2050, that number will probably be lower.

By contrast, the populations in less developed nations are increasing. They have 5 births to 8 deaths. By 2050, the people in less developed countries may number 7.8 billion.

Worldwide populations are changing in another way. They are aging. They have a

longer life expectancy. (This means that people are expected to live longer.) A major reason for this is better medical care.

Developed nations have more older people than less developed nations. In developed countries, about one person out of every eight is 65 or older. Only one in 20 in less developed countries is. More developed nations have less than one in five people under 15 years of age. About one-third of the people are under 15 in less developed nations.

How does the United States compare with the rest of the world? During colonial times, half of all Americans were under the age of 16. Today, only about one in five is under 15. About one in eight Americans is 65 or older. By 2025, that is expected to be one in five. The baby boomers will all reach 65 between 2011 and 2029. (They are the 75 million Americans born between 1946 and 1964.)

The U.S. population is not just expected to age. Unlike other western nations, it is expected to increase. There are two reasons for this. The birth rate is stable. The U.S. also allows immigrants into the country. It looks like other developed nations will grow smaller. But the U.S. will remain the third largest nation in the world.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# The Changing Population

## GETTING THE FACTS

1. What do we mean by *developed* nations? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What countries make up the developed nations? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who are the *baby boomers*? \_\_\_\_\_
4. The story gives two reasons why the U.S. population will probably grow.  
What are they? \_\_\_\_\_

## DICTIONARY SKILLS / VOCABULARY

5. Look each word up in the dictionary. Then write its correct meaning.  
technology: \_\_\_\_\_  
industry: \_\_\_\_\_

## WORD ANALYSIS

6. Write whether each word is a **noun**, a **verb**, or an **adjective**. (You may use a dictionary to help you.)  
colonial: \_\_\_\_\_ developed: \_\_\_\_\_  
colony: \_\_\_\_\_ development: \_\_\_\_\_  
colonize: \_\_\_\_\_ develop: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLYING INFORMATION

7. Is your parent or grandparent a baby boomer? \_\_\_\_\_ How can you tell?  
\_\_\_\_\_

# The Changing Population

**COMPARISON/CONTRAST**

Complete the table. Write the answer in the correct column.

QUESTION	DEVELOPED	LESS DEVELOPED
Population increasing or decreasing now?		
How many births compared to deaths now?		
How many 15 years or younger now?		
How many 65 years or older now?		

How is the population growth of the U.S. different than other developed countries? \_\_\_\_\_

How does the U.S. population differ today from colonial times?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CAUSE AND EFFECT/PREDICTING OUTCOMES**

The U.S. population is getting older.

What effects do you think this could have on how late in life people work?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What effects do you think this could have on the influence of older people on politics and on advertisers? (Do numbers increase or decrease influence?) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**For Further Study/Writing Practice:**

Interview one or two people over 50 years of age. Ask how their life was different from yours when they were your age. Write a paragraph about what you learn.