

Population Activities for Advanced Placement Human Geography -- Overview

Lesson #1 - Population – Building a Foundation

- a. Rationale: A working knowledge of the basic vocabulary of population geography is required in order for students to master important underlying concepts. Likewise, students need to understand the mathematical relationships implicit in population statistics and the broader social and economic implications of such relationships. Students should be able to present demographic data in a graphic format that supports analysis and interpretation.
- b. Objectives:
 - To develop a working vocabulary for population geography
 - To understand relationships and implications of demographic data
 - To construct and analyze population pyramids at different scales
- c. Activity One: "World Population Data Sheet at a Glance"
- d. Activity Two: "Working with Demographic Data"
- e. Activity Three: "Constructing and Interpreting Population Pyramids"

Lesson #2 - In the Path of Natural Hazards

- a. Rationale: In the United States, Florida ranks among the fastest growing states in the country. Much of this growth is a result of movement by residents of other states to the milder climate of the southeast. Students can speculate about why people seem to disregard environmental risk and consider the implications of such location decisions. The islands of the Caribbean Basin are also subject to damaging tropical storms. Students should examine population trends in the Caribbean and evaluate the consequences for people when severe storms strike heavily populated areas.
- b. Objectives:
 - To identify patterns of population change in areas with a history of major storm risk;
 - To evaluate the human and economic costs of a major natural disaster;
 - To explore why people move to places likely to experience major storms;
 - To examine the impact of tropical storms on islands within the Caribbean Basin
- c. Activity One: "Living on the Edge"
- d. Activity Two: "Islands Facing Change"

Lesson #3 - Contemporary Look at a Classic Model – Demographic Transition

- a. Rationale: With the spread of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century, dramatic changes began to occur in the populations of industrializing countries. But do the changes that occurred in Western Europe and the United States have relevance to modern countries just entering the industrial age. Students should be able to evaluate and apply models to explain changes in global demographic patterns, and use their assessments to predict future needs.
- b. Objectives:
 - To understand the classic demographic transition model
 - To explain assumptions and limitations of the classic DT model
 - To construct graphs of contemporary demographic change
 - To explain contemporary demographic patterns in the context of the classic DT model
- c. Activity One: Explaining Population Change
- d. Activity Two: Global Population Patterns and Demographic Transitions
- e. Activity Three: Can an Old Model Explain New Trends?

Lesson #4 - HIV/AIDS and Contemporary Population Dynamics

- a. Rationale: HIV/AIDS emerged in the late 20th century. Believed to have originated in Africa, the disease has spread worldwide. Occurrence of HIV/AIDS and means of diffusion vary among regions. Because of the social and economic impacts of this deadly disease, students should have a good understanding of the patterns and processes that define the spread of the disease.
- b. Objectives:
 - To describe the spread and occurrence of HIV/AIDS at multiple scales
 - To explain global and regional variations in the occurrence of HIV/AIDS
 - To understand the spread of HIV/AIDS in the United States
- c. Activity One: HIV/AIDS – A Scourge on the Land
- d. Activity Two: Patterns of HIV/AIDS in the United States

Lesson #5 - Population Policy – Progress Since Cairo

- a. Rationale: The importance of national population policies has long been a focus of discussion, but a collective global initiative emerged only following the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt in 1994. The goals emerging from this conference have shaped many national policies, but the question remains – are all groups equally represented in national population and development policies? Students need to think critically about the ways in which development is measured and the indicators used.
- b. Objectives:
 - To survey the evolution of population policies
 - To assess the presence of gender-bias in development statistics
 - To evaluate the nexus of women, development, and population policy]
- c. Activity One: The Cairo Conference – Population Policy and Development
- d. Activity Two: Development Policy – Planning for All People?

Lesson #6 - People on the Move

- a. Rationale: The population of the United States is very mobile – ranging from international migrants coming into the country to residents moving within and among the states. This movement of people introduces changes in terms of social, economic, environmental, and political makeup of states and regions. Understanding the implications of these changes is an important element of population geography as well as citizenship education.
- b. Objectives:
- To describe patterns of internal migration in the U.S., past and present
 - To evaluate implications of internal migration
 - To examine population movement at the state and local levels
- c. Activity One: Moving On – Population Mobility in the United States
- d. Activity Two: Population Mobility is Changing My State

Lesson #7 - Global Migration Patterns

- a. Rationale: The United States has often been referred to as a "nation of immigrants." While immigration has, historically, been the country's foundation, immigration continues to shape the structure and composition of the population. The majority of migrants move in response to economic pressures, but some migrants – called *refugees* – move because of fear. Recognizing their story is also an important part of understanding international migration.
- b. Objectives:
- To understand immigration into the United States
 - To identify major international migration streams
 - To evaluate the impact of migration on U.S. population structure
 - To explain the impact of major refugee movements on both source and host countries
- c. Activity One: Population Movement to the United States
- d. Activity Two: Immigrants in the United States
- e. Activity Three: People without a Place to Call Home