



7 BILLION - AND COUNTING

ON THE LINES

Answer the following in complete sentences:

1. What does UN stand for?

2. What did this organization predict would happen on October 31?

3. How fast is the Earth's population growing?

4. What happened to the world's population between 1950 and 2000?

5. List two reasons for this rapid increase.

6. Explain how rapid population growth is stressing the planet.

7. List at least three reasons why the food supply has decreased in many poor countries.



BETWEEN THE LINES

Making an inference: An *inference* is a conclusion drawn from evidence. A plausible inference is supported by evidence in the article and is consistent with known facts outside of the article.

What inferences can you draw from the fact that China, with 1.4 billion people, is the most populous country in the world?

BEYOND THE LINES

Canada's population of 34 million ranks 37th in the world. But how are Canadians distributed across the country?

- a) Create a bar graph showing the population of each province and territory in 2011 using the information available on the Statistics Canada website at <http://www40.statcan.ca/lo1/cst01/dem002a-eng.htm>. (A well-designed bar graph is neat, accurate and clearly shows the population of each province and territory.)
- b) Then, discuss: What is the population of the province or territory that you live in? How does it compare to the population of other provinces and territories? What might the importance of this information be? What other observations can you make about your graph and what is the importance of these observations?

JUST TALK ABOUT IT

In what ways is our growing world population a good news story? In what ways is it a bad news story?

ONLINE

Visit our student website at www.news4youth.com and click on the *What in the World?* tab to:

1. Find out where you fit in the global population, and to read stories and view graphs and video about [our world of 7 billion](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-15391515) (or visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-15391515>).
2. Submit your thoughts to our **forum**:

A world population of 7 billion is both something to celebrate – and cause for concern. Overall, would you say that our growing world population is more of a good news story than bad, or more of a bad news story than good? Give reasons to support your response.

A good submission is clearly written, logically organized (including an introduction and a conclusion), and supported with plausible reasoning.

We'll post the best submissions! ★