World Population and Population Pyramids Lab

Objective:

Learn how to read population pyramids and how to research information about the population differences between developing and developed nations. Understand demographic indicators, such as population growth rate, TFR, IMR, life expectancy and migration, and how these factors affect demographic transition.

Developing Nations:
Burundi, Angola, Central African Republic, Haiti, Laos, Bangladesh, India, Yemen, Guatamala

Developed Nations:
Norway, Australia, Switzerland, Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand, Canada, Singapore, Denmark

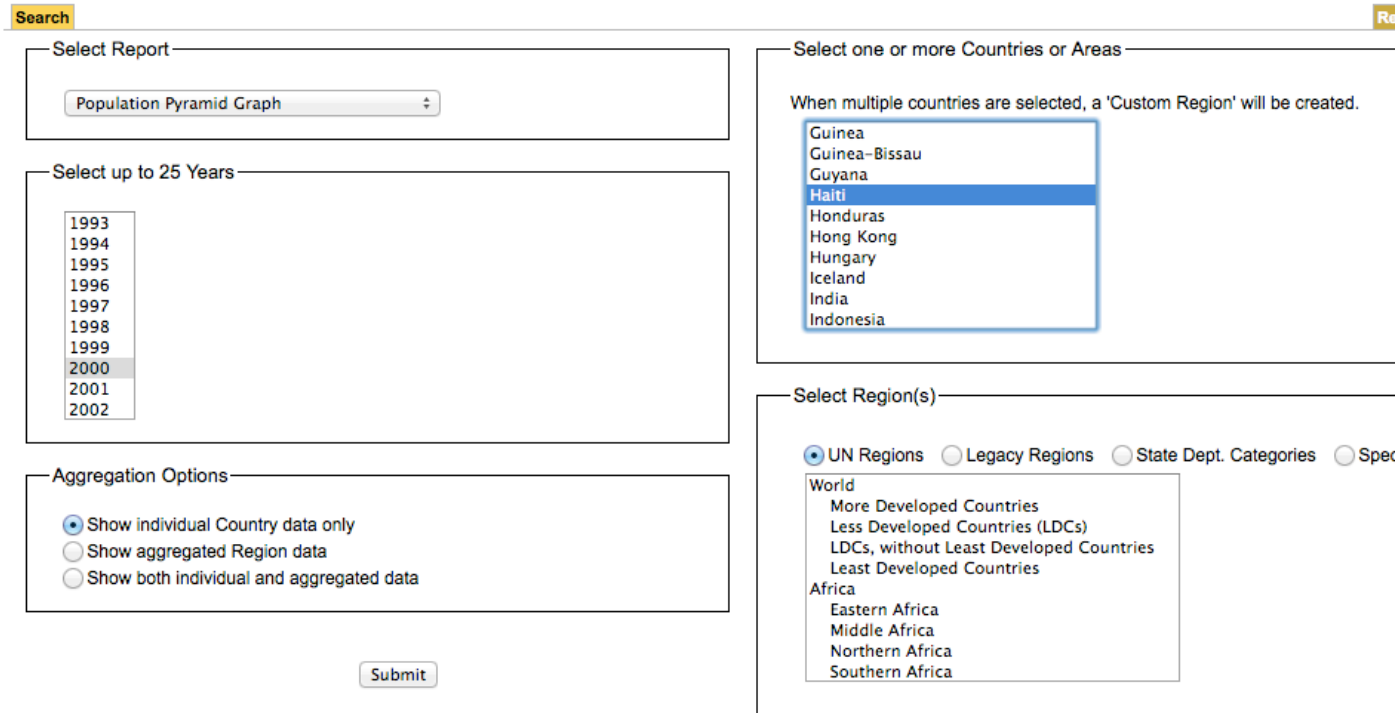
Time: This lab should take approximately one hour to complete.

Materials: Computer with Internet access

Part 1

Procedure:

1. Go to the website **http://www.census.gov/population/international/data/index.html**
2. Click on "World Population Summary."
3. What is the estimate of the population of the world today? _____
4. Click on "Data" Tab. Click on International Database.
   Select from the drop-down menus as follows and select **one developing nation**.



My developing country is _____ and it is located in the continent of _____.

5. Sketch the three pyramids below after submitting reports for 2000, 2025, 2050:

2000 2025 2050

6. Go back in the browser and instead of Pop. Pyramid Graphs select the report for Demographic Indicators and record the following information in the chart below.

COUNTRY:

What is the crude birth rate (births per thousand)?	
What is the crude death rate (deaths per thousand)?	
What is the life expectancy at birth?	
What is the infant mortality rate?	
What is the total fertility rate?	
What is the net number of migrants?	

Analysis:

1. What can you tell about your country's growth rate by looking at your histogram (population pyramid)?

2. If the birth and death rates remain the same as they are today, what will your pyramid look like in 25 years?

3. What are some factors that could change the shape of your pyramid?

4. Determine the percentage of the population that has not yet reached childbearing age. What does this number suggest about the prospects for future growth?

5. If your country's population growth rate is not increasing, what are some socio-economic problems that might occur?

6. Does your country have a baby boom (a bulge somewhere in the middle of it)? What could account for this?

7. If you had a business and you wanted to capitalize on your information about the population age distribution, what would you sell and why?

8. Is your country increasing in size, decreasing in size, or close to ZPG (zero population growth)?

Part 2

Procedure: Repeat the entire procedure using a developed nation.

My developed country is _____ and it is located in the continent of _____.

1. Sketch the three pyramids below:

2000 2025 2050

2. Now click on “Demographic Indicators.” Once again, select your country. Record the following information in the chart below.

COUNTRY:

What is the crude birth rate (births per thousand)?	
What is the crude death rate (deaths per thousand)?	
What is the life expectancy at birth?	
What is the infant mortality rate?	
What is the total fertility rate?	
What is the net number of migrants?	

Analysis:

1. What can you tell about your country’s growth rate by looking at your histogram (population pyramid)?

2. If the birth and death rates remain the same as they are today, what will your pyramid look like in 25 years?

3. What are some factors that could change the shape of your pyramid?

4. Determine the percentage of the population that has not yet reached childbearing age. What does this number suggest about the prospects for future growth?

5. If your country’s population growth rate is not increasing, what are some socio-economic problems that might occur?

6. Does your country have a baby boom (a bulge somewhere in the middle of it)? What could account for this?

7. If you had a business and you wanted to capitalize on your information about the population age distribution, what would you sell and why?

8. Is your country increasing in size, decreasing in size, or close to ZPG (zero population growth)?