

# Population over Time Activity Sheet

1. Click on this link: [U.S. Census Bureau Population Pyramids](#) to go to the US Census Bureau site. Explore the data base by selecting countries from different parts of the world and by selecting the various output options (summary, select years, and dynamic).
2. Choose two different countries, from two different continents (that is, one country from Africa, one from Europe, one from Asia, or whatever you want). Push yourself! Go for countries that maybe you have no idea about, or perhaps have never even heard of before. Base your decisions on trying to get one country you know to be rich, and one you know to be pretty poor.
3. View the population pyramid for each country for the year 2000, and then the year 2050. As you pull up each one (or one on top of the other), cut and paste each countries pyramids side by side into this document, one country per page.
4. Examine what happens within each country over time. Write a paragraph which describes several characteristics of the change in population (growing? shrinking? getting richer? growing quickly or slowly down? etc). Repeat for the other set of pyramids from your other country.
5. Now compare the changes in population from one country to the other. What is happening over time? Does the poor country pyramid start to resemble the rich one? Is the rich one actually shrinking...or maybe by 2050 the poor country pyramid is shrinking too? What affect are these population changes probably having on these two very different societies? List and explain a few major changes that must be taking place over this 50 year period, and what it means to the culture, the peoples, and the governments of both countries.

Themes to consider: societal needs, government provided benefits/services, labor force, tax base, economic power, availability of resources, availability of health care, quality of health care, future needs, infant mortality, longevity, etc.