

World Population Day (July 11, 2026)



TEACHING GUIDE

What? A special day created by the UN to make us think about the number of people living on Earth. 🌐

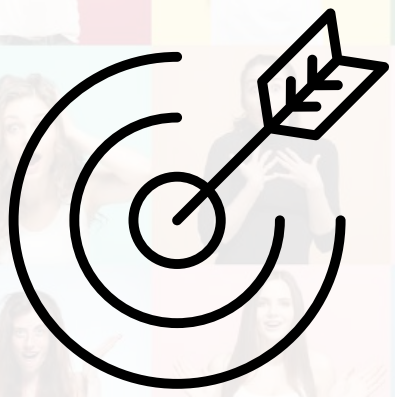
Who? Of all humanity: today there are more than 8 billion human beings sharing the same planet!

Where? All over the world, because this day is celebrated in many countries.

When? Every year on July 11.

Why is it important? Because the more people there are, the more we have to think about giving everyone food, water, education and health care.

For this activity, your objective will be to better understand how many of us there are on Earth and the challenges that this represents. 🌐



OBJECTIVES

- Discover how many people live on Earth today.
- Calculate and compare the share of each continent in the world's population.
- Understand what a population pyramid is and how to read it.
- Read a population growth graph and distinguish historical data from projections.
- Understand that the growth of the world's population is slowing down.



SUBJECTS

- **Mathematics**
 - Calculating Percentages
 - Reading Graphs
 - Subtracting and Multiplying Decimals
 - Comparing Numerical Data
 - The Age Pyramid
- **Social Studies / Geography**
 - The Continents
 - Distribution of the World's Population
- **English**
 - Reading and Comprehension
 - Short Answers



COMPETENCIES

- Read and interpret a thematic map
- Perform percentage calculations
- Read and interpret a graph (age pyramid, line graph)
- Compare numerical data
- Distinguish between measured data and a projection
- Produce short and precise answers



DURATION

- Approximately 60 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the child if they have any idea how many people live on Earth.
- Ask them to name all the continents they know.
- Discuss: Which continent do you think has the most inhabitants? Why?
- Gather their hypotheses: Are there more babies or more elderly people on Earth?
- Ask them: Will our population always increase, or will it stop someday?

World Population Day (July 11, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — A Populated Earth. Observation of a world map showing the population of each continent, accompanied by a reminder of the method for calculating a percentage. Six calculations to be performed based on a world population of 8,232 million.

Q1 — $618 \div 8,232 \times 100 = 8\%$ (North and Central America)

Q2 — $438 \div 8,232 \times 100 = 5\%$ (South America)

Q3 — $744 \div 8,232 \times 100 = 9\%$ (Europe)

Q4 — $1,550 \div 8,232 \times 100 = 19\%$ (Africa)

Q5 — $4,835 \div 8,232 \times 100 = 59\%$ (Asia)

Q6 — $47 \div 8,232 \times 100 = 0.6\%$ (Oceania)

STEP 2 — The Age Pyramid. Reading of the age pyramid of the world population in 2025. Four observation and interpretation questions.

Q7 — These are the 10-14 year olds.

Q8 — That's true! The 0-4 year olds are about twice as numerous as the 60-64 year olds.

Q9 — They are getting shorter and shorter.

Q10 — A young population!

STEP 3 — The population by 2100. Observation of a line graph showing the evolution of the world population from 1950 to 2025, then the UN projections up to 2100. Three calculation and interpretation questions.

Q11 — True! $2.5 \times 4 = 10$ billion, and the projection for 2100 is 10.3 billion.

Q12 — $8.2 - 2.5 = 5.7$ billion.

Q13 — $10.3 - 9.7 = 0.6$ billion, or 600 million. This is almost ten times less than between 1950 and 2025, over a comparable period: growth is slowing down.



WRAPPING UP

- Review with the child what they have discovered.
- Ask them what surprised them the most (e.g., nearly six out of ten humans live in Asia!).
- Ask them which step they found the most difficult, and why.
- Discuss: Why does Oceania have so few inhabitants, even though it is so large on the map?



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 *8 billion people on Earth, here's what it means.* CBC Kids News
<https://youtu.be/aqtw-2bJ9HI?si=Jc9AMVYRHJuqdXvD>



THE COUNTER THAT NEVER STOPS

Global growth in 2026: approximately 0.84% per year on 8.3 billion inhabitants, or ≈ 70 million more people each year.

In one minute: ≈ 133 people

$133 \times 60 = \approx 7,960$ per hour

$7,960 \times 24 = \approx 191,000$ per day

$191,000 \times 365 = \approx 70,000,000$ per year

The figures recorded by the child will vary slightly: the counter is an estimate, not an actual measurement. This is precisely the point of the trick question.

WHAT IF YOU COUNTED EVERYONE?

$8,232,000,000 \div 60 = 137,200,000$ minutes

$137,200,000 \div 60 = 2,286,667$ hours

$2,286,667 \div 24 = 95,278$ days

$95,278 \div 365 = \approx 261$ years





World Population Day (July 11, 2026)

The counter that never stops

As you read this sentence, the Earth's population has already changed. Babies are born, people die—and the total keeps climbing. There's a website that tries to track all of this in real time.

Go to www.worldometers.info and look at the large counter at the top.

 Your turn!

Write down the displayed number. Wait exactly one minute, then write it down again.

Subtract the first number from the second. How many people were added to the Earth's population in just one minute?

Now, follow the cascade. At each step, multiply:

in one minute: ≈ 133 people

in one hour: $133 \times 60 = \approx 7,960$

in one day: $7,960 \times 24 = \approx 191,000$

in one year: $191,000 \times 365 = \approx 70$ million

worldometer			Population	More ▾
WORLD POPULATION				
8,305,207,394	Current World Population	[+]		
71,639,769	Births this year	[+]		
191,353	Births today	[+]		
33,756,995	Deaths this year			
90,167	Deaths today			
37,882,773	Net population growth this year	[+]		
101,186	Net population growth today			

Seventy million people per year is almost twice the population of Canada added to the Earth each year.

A trick question

Does this counter actually measure births, one by one, all over the planet?

No! No one can do that. The counter estimates: it takes the average number of births and deaths calculated by the UN and advances the figure at a steady rate. It's a very good approximation—but it's not a measurement. A bit like the projections after 2025 in the graph for Step 3.

What if you counted everyone?

Imagine you wanted to count all 8.2 billion people, one by one. One number per second. Without ever sleeping, eating, or stopping even once.

 Your turn!

There are 8,232,000,000 people to count, at a rate of one per second. Convert, one step at a time:

Divide by 60 → you get the minutes

Divide by another 60 → you get the hours

Divide by 24 → you get the days

Divide by 365 → you get the years

So, how many years does that take?

Did you know? To finish counting today, you would have had to start in 1765. Your ancestors weren't even born yet. And during your 261 years of counting, the Earth would have gained billions of new inhabitants... that you would never have caught up with!