

# Population Pyramid 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 three different countries, from three 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.
3. Make sure that you select the same date for all of them...just make it 2010 for simplicity. As you pull up each one, cut and paste it into this document, one per page.
4. Examine what happens within each country over time. Write a paragraph which describes several characteristics of the population that this pyramid represents (rich? poor? growing? rural? urban? shrinking? getting richer? growing quickly or slowly down? etc). What type of pyramid is it? What can you tell me about the economy of each state? The birth rate? The culture? The health care?
5. Identify and explain at least one positive and one negative attribute of each of the countries' population based on these pyramids. Themes to consider: societal needs, government provided benefits/services, labor force, tax base, economic power, brain drain, availability of resources, availability of health care, quality of health care, future needs, education, infant mortality, longevity, etc.
6. See if you can identify any anomalies in the pyramids...and then go research on the web to try and figure out what is going on or has already happened. Extremely high number of females between the ages of 80 to 85? A strange lack of men aged 30 to 35? A very unbalanced number of males to females in the 0 to 5 age bracket? A sudden and severe drop off of children under 10 years of age?  
  
Could it be related to a war that killed lots of the men, or a cultural preference for male babies, or a government sponsored program to radically lower the birth rate? Go find out!