

Human Population Growth

The Table below shows the population (in millions) of the world and selected continents. On one single graph, plot the data for each region and for the world. You might want to use different colors for different sets of data.

Year	Europe	Asia	Africa	North America	South America	World Total
1650	100	327	100	12	1	545
1750	140	475	100	11	1	728
1800	190	597	100	19	10	906
1850	250	741	100	33	26	1171
1900	450	915	141	63	81	1608
1920	481	997	151	92	120	1834
1930	500	1069	164	110	134	2008
1940	518	1173	183	132	145	2216
1950	549	1395	219	171	112	2525
1960	605	1695	273	204	148	3026
1970	657	2218	352	231	191	3691
1980	693	2634	469	255	241	4449
1990	723	3213	743	282	295	5322
2000	729	3717	808	315	348	6128
2010	740	4165	1031	346	394	6916
2014	742	4375	1110	355	407	7162

Use your graph to answer the following questions:

1. What is meant by the term "growth rate"? What units are used to express growth rate?
2. Has the growth of any of the REGIONS graphed been constant? Explain.
3. Which REGION had the greatest growth rate for the entire period recorded? Suggest an explanation for this.
4. Which REGION has had the greatest growth rate for the 20th Century? Suggest an explanation for this.
5. For the decade 1980-1990, list the REGIONS in the order of growth rate with the fastest-growing region listed first.
6. It seems like there was rapid growth during the 20th century. Why do you think this happened? Why did some areas start growing later than others?