6 Billion Human Beings

Introduction

"6 Billion Human Beings" is the title of a web site developed by the Musée de l'Homme in Paris. It is interactive and provides real-time estimates of human population trends on Earth. It is interesting in that the web site customizes responses to a person's individual interests in terms of age, sex, and part of the world inhabited. It uses a lot of information from the United Nations and projects, as does the U.N., that world population will stabilize at 12 billion in 120 years. Already, we have seen a deceleration in human growth rate on Earth from 1.7% in 1990 to about 1.3% in 2000.

Procedure

1. On the internet, go to http://www-popexpo.ined.fr/
2. Click on "In english".
3. Click on "6 billion human beings". Answer questions 4-7 using this page.
4. On what date did the world population reach the 6 billion mark? _____
5. How many people are there are on the Earth at this time? _____ billion
6. One by one, enter the age of each member of your lab group in the table below. Then, before proceeding, each group member should make a guess, and record it below, as to the number of people on Earth when he/she was born. Now, one by one, enter on the website the age of each group member by changing the number above "Your age" using the "-" or "+" arrows. The site will then indicate the actual number of people that were on Earth when each group member was born and the percent increase in population since that time. Record that information in the table below:

	Group Member:	1	2	3	4
	Age:				
# people on Earth when you were born, in billions	Guess				
	Actual				
	Percent increase in population				

7. What does the United Nations predict the world population will be in 120 years?

   _____

8. Click on next page.

9. Read the information under "Did you know that every day".

10. Click on next page.

11. Choose "woman" regardless of your gender and, with your cursor, click on the area of the world where we live (North America).

12. Click on next page.

13. Make a reasonable guess as to how many children a woman could have during the childbearing portion of her life and record your guess here: _____ Now, click on "click here to see the answer" and record the correct answer here:

    _____

14. Click on the next page.

15. One at a time, choose the ages indicated below and spin the fertility wheel. Record the results in the table below.

If a woman goes sterile at age.....	35	40	45
.....by how many children is her potential fertility reduced?			

16. For what reasons is the number of children a woman actually has usually less than the maximum potential number of babies per woman? (list the three):

    a. _____

    b. _____

    c. _____

17. Click on the next page.

18. For each group member, choose and enter, one by one, the age at which you think you might consider marriage. The site will give the reduction in fertility associated with marriage at each of these ages. Complete the table below:

Group Member:	1	2	3	4
Marriage age:				
Reduction in fertility potential:				

19. What is the global average age at which women marry? _____

20. At the bottom of the page, click on each continent on the map of the globe and the site will reveal the age at which women from that region typically marry. Enter the information in the table below:

Continent:	**Age at which women typically marry?**
North America	
South America (Latin America)	
Africa	
Asia	
Europe	
Australia (Oceania)	

21. Click on next page.

22. What is the relationship between length of time a woman breastfeeds and birth potential?

_____

_____

23. As a lab group, chose and enter, one by one, four different number of months to represent the number of months a woman should breastfeed a baby. The site will give the reduction in a couple's birth potential associated with breastfeeding a baby for that period of time. Complete the table below:

# Months a woman breastfeeds a baby:				
Reduction in fertility potential:				

24. At the bottom of the page, click on each continent on the map of the globe and the site will provide the average length of time a woman from that region breastfeeds a baby. Enter the information in the table below:

Continent:	**Average length of time a woman breastfeeds a baby:**
North America	
South America (Latin America)	
Africa	
Asia	
Europe	
Australia (Oceania)	

25. Click on next page.

26. Optional: Use this page to learn about the effectiveness of various birth control methods and their usage in various parts of the world.

27. Click on next page.

28. Throughout the world, what percent of childbearing-age couples use birth control?

_____

29. At the bottom of the page, click on each continent on the map of the globe and the site will provide the percentage of fertile-age couples who use birth control. Enter the information in the table below:

Continent:	**Percent of fertile-age couples using birth control:**
North America	
South America (Latin America)	
Africa	
Asia	
Europe	
Australia (Oceania)	

30. Click on next page.

31. Why do you think there are such differences in various areas of the world in the percentage of fertile-age couples using birth control?

32. Click on next page.

33. Read the information under "Did you know that every day" and enter the number of people worldwide who die each day from the following causes:

    Die each day: _____ Children under 5: _____

    Die from infection _____

    Die from cardiovascular illness: _____

    Die from cancer: _____

    Die from violence: _____

    Die from diarrhea as children: _____

    Die in childbirth: _____

34. Click on next page.

continued

35. For each lab group member, enter your age and the site will show what percentage of all the people in the world born in the same year as you have died. If all group members are close to the same age, choose other ages, such as the age of a parent, grandparent, or other relative or friend, so that you will have a varied range of ages with which to work. Then click on each continent to see what percentage of the people born in the same year as you have died. Complete the table below:

Group Member:	1	2	3	4
Age:				
% that have died:				
Worldwide				
North America				
South America (Latin America):				
Africa:				
Asia				
Europe				
Australia (Oceania):				

36. Click on next page.

continued

37. For each lab member, compare population pyramids for the present, 25 years in the future and 50 years in the future. If all group members are close to the same age, choose other ages, such as the age of a parent, grandparent, or other relative or friend, so that you will have a varied range of ages with which to work. Complete the table below:

Group Member:	1	2	3	4
Age				
% people older today				
% people younger today				
% people older in 25 years				
% people younger in 25 years				
% people older in 50 years				
% people younger in 50 years				

38. Click on next page

39. Examine the graph of human population over time. Click on the green dots to discover some of the key events in the history of human population.

40. Click on next page. Read.

41. Click on next page. Read and answer questions 42-48.

42. Will our natural resources run out? What is your opinion? Should other countries aspire to have the same lifestyle as that of people living in North America? Would it be possible?

43. How many people lived in large cities around the world in 1994 (_____) versus in 1990 (_____)? Why?

44. Why aren't there so many famines any more? If one does occur, what is the usual reason?

45. Does AIDS pose a threat to population of this planet?

46. How many women of childbearing age in Zambia are infected with AIDS?

_____

47. How many people on are the Earth right now? (Look in lower left corner of webpage)

_____

48. How many people have been added to the Earth's population since you started this exercise? (see your answer to #5) _____