

VIDEO GUIDE QUESTIONS NOVA: WORLD IN BALANCE “THE PEOPLE PARADOX”

1. What will be the worldwide trend for population growth of industrialized countries of the world in the future as compared to the growth trends for developing countries?

India

2. What are some of the societal/cultural reasons why Indian families often desire multiple male offspring?
3. Describe India’s age structure and growth rate trends.
4. How has the cultural practice of dowry endowment affected women’s rights and health in India?
5. How have educational and vocational programs for Indian women influenced birth rate and infant mortality?
6. How have India’s population growth trends influenced access to water and food production?
7. Why is the “2 child rule” so important in terms of global population and its impacts?

Japan

8. Describe some of the population growth characteristics of Japan.
9. What is a “parasite single”?
10. How do you think the increase of education and employment opportunities for women have influenced reproductive patterns in Japan?
11. How has the relative proportion of older Japanese changed over the last 20 years? What implications might that have for elderly people in Japan?
12. What are the economic implications of Japan’s demographic trends?
13. Describe the immigration and employment trends for Japan versus the United States.

Sub-Saharan Africa

14. Describe the birth rate of sub-Saharan Africa, and some of its implications.
15. How do the birth rates in this region affect natural resources and the environment?
16. Describe how death rates and life expectancy has changed in Kenya over the last decade in particular.
17. How does the use of birth control compare in the developed vs. developing countries? How would this affect HIV transmission?
18. Describe the concept of the demographic transition, especially with reference to Sub-Saharan Africa.
19. Given that we live in an affluent country, do you think we have an ethical responsibility to help fund programs that will stabilize population growth in developing countries, and encourage sustainability of species and resources globally? Why or why not?