

ACTIVITY 8

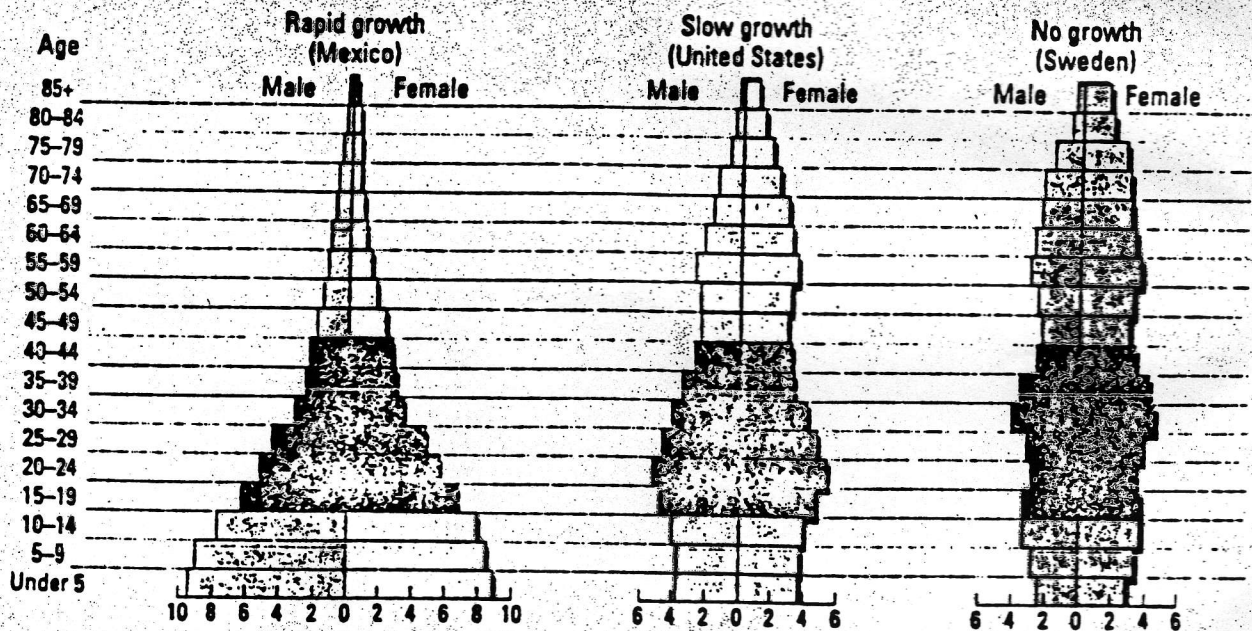
POPULATION DYNAMICS

BACKGROUND

Population dynamics is the study of changes in populations in terms of size and makeup. Factors involved in population dynamics include fertility rates, age of the population, and infant and childhood mortality. Demographers use the information to make predictions about future population sizes and needs.

PART A

Age pyramids are one way to represent the number of people in each age group within a population. The age pyramids below represent the populations of three nations: one growing rapidly (Mexico), one growing slowly (United States), and one that is not growing at all (Sweden).



Analysis

1. Which population includes the greatest percentage of people over the age of 65? What percentage of the nation's population falls into that category?

2. Which nation has the greatest percentage of people in child-bearing years (ages 15-44)? How does the number of people in this category compare to the number of people over 65 in that nation?

3. List reasons why some countries have higher life expectancies than other countries.
4. How would high infant mortality affect a country's age structure graph?
5. Explain why it is important to know the ages of a country's population.
6. Why can't the human population keep growing forever?
7. What do you think could happen if human population growth does not slow down?

