

# 300,000,000!

## IN THE USA

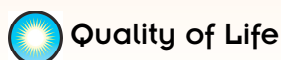
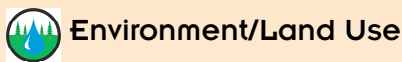
### Format:

The following items are listed in the side bar on the first page of each activity:

- Concept
- Objectives
- Subjects
- Skills
- Method

### Themes:

Each activity addresses different themes from the *300,000,000 in the USA* wall chart. The themes are identified in the lower left corner of the front page of each activity by the following icons:



## Teachers' Guide

2006 marks an historic milestone for our nation – 300 million people. Over the past century, our population has tripled, making the United States the fastest growing developed country in the world, and the third largest overall. Reaching this marker offers an opportunity to reflect on our past, examine current trends, and articulate our hopes for the future of American society.

The story of the American populace, from the first U.S. Census in 1790 to the addition of our 300 millionth resident, is an epic about growth and change. Our demographics have shifted with industrialization, changing gender roles, improvements in health, and waves of immigration from every part of the world. We have transformed our landscapes from wilderness to sprawling metropolitan areas and become the world's largest consumer of most of the Earth's natural resources. Our numbers and lifestyles have far-reaching impacts on local and global environments, economies, and cultures.

The wall chart provides a glimpse into our national population history, our diversity as a people, and the challenges we face in creating healthy, sustainable communities. Visit [www.populationeducation.org](http://www.populationeducation.org) to view citations from the wall chart or to request your free copy.

These hands-on activities complement and expand upon the wall chart. The lessons are designed to broaden students' awareness of population issues and to encourage dialogue about our nation's future while addressing the thematic strands in the Curriculum Standards for Social Studies ([www.ncss.org](http://www.ncss.org)). The user-friendly lesson plans, are appropriate for middle and secondary grades and can be downloaded at no cost from the Population Education website.

A brief description of each activity follows, with corresponding subject areas. The colored sidebar on the first page of each activity notes the skills it addresses, its primary objectives, the topics on the map to which it relates, and the materials needed. The materials required are easily obtainable; most can be found in a standard classroom.

For any questions regarding the wall chart or activities, please contact the Education Program staff at Population Connection:

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**To see more of Population Connection's educational materials, please visit our website at [www.populationeducation.org](http://www.populationeducation.org).**

Activity	Subject areas	Description
<b>300 Million Reasons</b>	Social Studies, Environmental Science	Students diagram articles from the newspapers and how they relate to population issues.
<b>Connecting the Dots</b>	Geography, Social Studies, U.S. History	Students map the changing size and density of the country's population over its history.
<b>A Family Perspective</b>	Math, Family & Consumer Sciences, Social Studies, U.S. History, Science, Geography, Health, History	Students chart family-size trends over several generations and discuss factors that influence family-size decision-making.
<b>Global Warming Begins at Home USA</b>	Math, Family & Consumer Sciences, Science	Students collect data and compute word problems to calculate their family's contribution of CO <sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere.
<b>The Good Old Days</b>	Social Studies, Science, Civics, Economics, Family and Consumer Sciences, Geography, Health, U.S. History	Students participate in a simulation activity that shows demographics and quality of life for different points in U.S. history.
<b>A Hill of Beans</b>	Mathematics, Science, Social Studies	Students compare the lifetime use of resources of an average American, an average human, and an average person from Malawi, one of the poorest nations in the world.
<b>Looking to the Future</b>	Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Economics, Family and Consumer Sciences, Health	In creating a futuristic news telecast and a letter to a friend 50 years from now, students think about what their future might look like, given current realities, hopes and dreams.
<b>A Matter of Timing</b>	Math, Family & Consumer Sciences, Social Studies, Science, Geography, Health, History	Students draw models of family populations and use these to identify trends in population size influenced by family timing.
<b>Mysteries of the U.S. Pyramids</b>	Math, Biology, Social Studies, Environmental Science	Students construct and interpret population pyramids and discuss differences in population characteristics at different points in U.S. history and make projections for the future.
<b>A Nation of Immigrants</b>	Social Studies, Civics, Family and Consumer Sciences, Geography, History	Students participate in a brief simulation that helps them identify some of the reasons that people migrate from one place to another and examine four different immigration policy options for the United States and then develop their own.
<b>Population Circle in the USA</b>	Science, Social Studies, Math, Geography, History	Students experience the pace of population growth by simulating U.S. growth over our history.
<b>School Days</b>	History, Economics, Family Life Education	Students divide into groups based on the educational opportunities available to middle and high school students in 1900.
<b>The Stork and Grim Reaper USA</b>	Social Studies, Science, Math, Geography, Health, History	In a short demonstration, students observe how populations grow when the birth rate exceeds the death rate.
<b>USA Population Clock</b>	Math, Social Studies	Students multiply ratios, divide units of time, and subtract death rates from birth rates to calculate population growth rates.
<b>Watch Your Step</b>	Social Studies, Family and Consumer Sciences, Geography, Language Arts, Economics, History, Health	Students will learn about the concept of the ecological footprint, compare their own to students of other nations, and explore why it is an important measurement of their impact on the earth's resources.

## Acknowledgements

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