



# The Population Educator

Teacher Training and Resources from **Population Connection**

## Helen de la Maza honored as MVT!

California Environmental Educator named Most Valuable Trainer



Population Connection is delighted to recognize Helen de la Maza as our Most Valuable Trainer for

this year! She has been presenting workshops and representing Population Connection since 2001. Since becoming a trainer five years ago, Helen has presented 22 population education workshops for teachers, student teachers and nonformal educators throughout Southern California. We applaud Helen for her hard work and dedication to population issues.

As an environmental educator for the Orange County Department of Education's Inside the Outdoors program, Helen develops environmental education curricula, trains field naturalists on pedagogy, and evaluates programs. Helen finds that the Population Connection materials make a great fit for the non-formal education sector. She uses the curricula from Population Connection to inform many aspects of her work such as training field naturalists.

When asked what led her to become a trainer for Population Education, Helen replied, "I was very interested in becoming more familiar with issues of overpopulation and sustainability... because that is the root of a lot of the problems humans, living things, and

our planet face!" In addition to facilitating workshops for Population Connection, Helen conducts workshops for Project WILD and Project Learning Tree. She found that becoming a trainer helped enhance all of her workshops, as well as her work as a curriculum writer for environmental education.

Upon pondering what would be her favorite workshop, Helen explained, "each experience is unique and I value it for what I gain and learn to improve the workshop for the next time." She finds the workshops with environmental and outdoor educators especially rewarding as "they bring a lot of knowledge and experience about environmental issues, as well as about working with kids."

While Helen has about 20 activities that could qualify as her favorite, she especially enjoys the activity "Take a Stand." In this activity, participants state their own thoughts and opinions to a statement she reads. After a few rounds, she asks them to take the stand opposite to their actual beliefs. She believes "this helps the participants 'take a walk in someone else's moccasins' and it brings them to a better and more thorough understanding of the complexity of the issues."

By encouraging participants to think critically through these discussions and activities, Helen is able to show how the content is relevant to every day life. In many ways Helen's commitment to population issues extends

beyond her work. She explains, "the Population Education materials have also informed choices I have made in the 'job' of living my life!"

**Why not join our national Network of dedicated population educators? Here are four excellent reasons to become a Trainer:**

### 1. It's Important!

Teacher training workshops are the heart of our program. Teachers learn to use fun and engaging classroom activities that teach students about vital population and environmental concepts. In providing this experience, our Trainers make an invaluable contribution toward preparing today's students to be tomorrow's responsible citizens.

### 2. It's Easy!

Although trainers volunteer their time, other expenses are covered, and Pop Ed staff provide plenty of support to Trainers in the form of sample scripts, suggested agendas, facilitator's notes, props, and material packets for participants. We really try to make it easy for you!

### 3. It's Good for You!

Professional growth is a natural result of joining our Trainers' Network. Members have access to our time-tested, critically acclaimed materials, and each summer we offer a two-day Leadership Institute to provide additional training for new members.

### 4. Joining is Simple!

Anyone who has attended a population education workshop is eligible to apply. Just send us a current copy of your resume and two references. For more information on attending or facilitating workshops, please visit our website at [www.populationeducation.org](http://www.populationeducation.org).



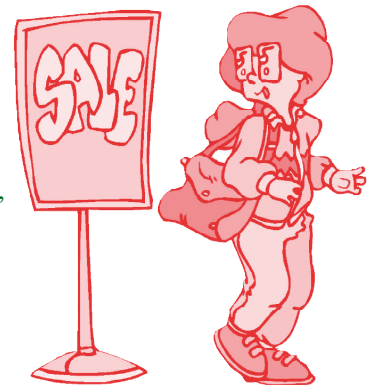
# Resources

## From Population Connection

***We know you can't resist a SALE!***

**Monthly specials at [www.populationeducation.org](http://www.populationeducation.org)**

Sales are so much fun! Population Connection will now have one of our great teaching materials on sale each month at [www.populationeducation.org](http://www.populationeducation.org). Right now through May 31, you can find *Counting on People*, our elementary kit, on sale for \$1.00 plus shipping and handling. At almost 150 pages, this kit is filled with activities, readings and songs that are perfect for grades one through five. Look for a new special each month!



# 300,000,000!

***Coming soon... A brand new wall chart and teaching kit for FREE!***

**300,000,000 in the U.S.A.**

What is that big number? It's the population of the U.S. this year! Take full advantage of this teachable moment with our new wall chart, *300,000,000 in the U.S.A.* The chart is full of facts and figures about our population, natural resources, and lifestyles. We are also developing a new teaching kit of activities to complement the wall chart. While aimed at middle and high school social studies, the chart and activities can be adapted to a variety of grade levels and subjects.

Beginning in June, educators can request a free copy of the wall chart at [www.populationeducation.org](http://www.populationeducation.org). Activities will also be available for free download at the same site.

## From Other Sources

***CLEANSWEEP USA***

**New curricula at [www.kab.org/kids/educators.htm](http://www.kab.org/kids/educators.htm)**

CLEANSWEEP USA has six new colorful lesson plans for grades 4-8 focusing on environmental issues such as waste reduction, composting, landfills and waste to energy. Each lesson uses a variety of games, pictures, interactive icons, videos and a self quiz to engage the student. All lessons include comprehensive teacher background information, a glossary of terms, relevant links, as well as ideas for web-directed research and in-class activities. To access these dynamic resources simply go to [www.kab.org/kids/educators.htm](http://www.kab.org/kids/educators.htm), review the lesson summary, and download the lesson plan.

## Moving Up in the World!

Population Connection offices have moved! Our new address is 2120 L St. NW, Suite 500, Washington DC 20037. Our phone number, website and e-mail address will all remain the same.





# Activities

## Take a Stand

### Introduction:

Sometimes it is easier to think through an issue if you are asked to “take a stand” on it. For this activity, students are asked to take a position and articulate their views on several contemporary issues that are related to population and resource consumption trends.

### Materials:

1. Signs reading: “Strongly Agree,” “Agree,” “?,” “Disagree,” “Strongly Disagree”
2. Masking tape

### Procedure:

1. Tape the signs up on the wall around the classroom.
2. Explain to the students that you will be reading several statements to them, and that they should stand in front of the sign that most closely represents their reaction to the statement you’ve read. They will then be asked to explain their particular stand on each issue. They are free to move to a different sign if/when their opinions change after hearing their classmates’ views.
3. When facilitating the activity, try to give equal time to representatives of different sides of the issue and solicit remarks from as many students as possible. Do not let

your own opinions show, but you may pose questions to help students articulate their thoughts.

4. You may want to use some of the following techniques to keep the debate on track. To show respect for viewpoints different than their own, have students paraphrase the opinions offered by others before they speak. To stay focused on content, not personalities, assign students a position that they must defend, even if it does not mesh with their personal values.

Note: Use your discretion in choosing statements that you feel students have enough information on to form an opinion and that fit best with your curriculum guidelines.

### Follow-up Activities:

1. Students can record their locations for the statements and then research the arguments on both sides to decide if they would like to change their stand. Alternatively, the statements can be used as a pre- and post-evaluation to gauge how students’ content knowledge has grown as a result of a unit on some of these issues.
2. Students can write and debate statements that relate to issues in their own community.

### Sample Statements

1. Because we live in one of the richest countries in the world, we should welcome all those from other nations who wish to live here.
2. Arable land in this country should not be used for housing, businesses or other non-agricultural uses.
3. In a real crunch, jobs are more important than environmental quality.
4. Automobile makers in this country should be required by law to make all their vehicles very fuel-efficient, even though the vehicles might cost the consumer more.
5. In an effort to feed a growing population, people in developed countries should drastically reduce the amount of meat they consume.
6. Clothing manufacturers should be able to use child labor overseas if it makes clothes cheaper for consumers here.
7. Any new construction or other project that may threaten the quality of our country’s drinking water should be prohibited.
8. Science and technology will certainly ensure that food production and energy supplies keep up with the demands of a growing population.
9. Governments in countries with fast-growing populations should be able to limit the number of children that couples can have.
10. People in this country should be required by law to separate their trash and recycle newspaper, glass & cans.

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### Workshops

**Check Us Out:** To see how hands-on population activities can fit into your classroom, attend a workshop! Our staff and volunteer trainers will conduct teacher trainings at the following conferences in the next few months. Visit the website of the sponsoring organization to find out how to attend the conference. To schedule a teacher training workshop for your education methods class, conference or in-service day visit [www.populationeducation.org](http://www.populationeducation.org) or call (800) 767-1956.

6/3/06	Florida League of Middle Schools	Sarasota, FL
6/18/06	AP Human Geography Institute	Las Vegas, NM
6/19/06	Pre-AP Geography Institute	Dallas, TX
6/23/06	American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences	Charlotte, NC
6/25/06	AP Advanced Topics Academy	Houston, TX
7/10/06	AP Human Geography Institute	Houston, TX
7/10/06	AP Human Geography Institute	Edinburg, TX
7/10/06	AP Human Geography Institute	Fort Worth, TX
7/17/06	National Marine Educators Association	New York, NY
7/17/06	AP Human Geography Institute	Houston, TX
7/23/06	AP Human Geography Institute	Richardson, TX
7/24/06	Pre-AP Geography Institute	Austin, TX
7/24/06	Pre-AP Geography Institute	Seguin, TX
9/9/06	Kentucky Association for Environmental Education	Covington, KY
9/15/96	North Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children	Greensboro, NC
9/20/06	National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Central Region	Chicago, IL
9/22/06	Tennessee Environmental Education Association	Dickson, TN
9/30/06	New England Environmental Education Alliance	W. Greenwich, RI
10/6/06	Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children	Chattanooga, TN
10/6/06	National Council for Geographic Education	Lake Tahoe, NV
10/6/06	North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics	Greensboro, NC
10/6/06	National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Western Region	Phoenix, AZ
10/7/06	Georgia Association on Young Children	Atlanta, GA
10/11/06	North American Association for Environmental Education	St. Paul, MN
10/12/06	Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics	Toledo, OH
10/12/06	National Association of Biology Teachers	Albuquerque, NM
10/13/06	South Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics	Myrtle Beach, SC
10/13/06	Western Ohio Educators Association	Dayton, OH

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to Renew!

*The Population Educator* subscribers: if the word "RENEW" appears to the right of your name on the mailing label, you'll need to e-mail [PopEd@pop - connect.org](mailto:PopEd@populationconnection.org) or call 1-800-767-1956 or to continue your subscription. This will be your last issue unless you renew.

*The Population Educator* is a publication of the Population Connection Population Education Program, written by Kaylen Jorgensen and Melissa Holmes, and edited by Pamela Wasserman.