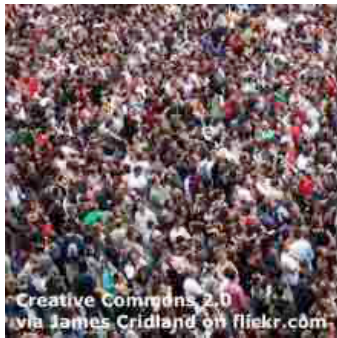


World population has passed 8 billion

13th November 2023



The world has reached a somewhat worrying demographic milestone. The U.S. Census Bureau said on Thursday that the population of our planet has surpassed 8 billion. A spokesperson said the bureau estimated that the global population

exceeded 8 billion on the 26th of September. However, he said this was a very rough guess and the precise day could be a month or two either side of this date. The Bureau declared that the world population would continue to grow at a steady rate. It has grown from 6 billion to 8 billion in the past two decades. The number of Earth's inhabitants had doubled between 1960 and 2000. The rate of growth is slowing as birth rates are falling in many nations.

The Census Bureau attributed the slowdown in population growth to trends of longer lifespans and lower fertility rates. However, it forecast that the population would reach 10.2 billion in 2060. It said: "The world population is projected to keep growing despite declining fertility rates. In fact, we estimate the number of infants already peaked in 2017. Instead, population growth in the future will come from larger groups of people at adult ages." It added: "Population growth is the result of fertility, mortality, migration and the share of the population at certain ages....Nearly three quarters (74 per cent) of the earth's population reside in countries where fertility is around or below the replacement level."

Sources: [census.gov](https://www.census.gov) / [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com) / [marketwatch.com](https://www.marketwatch.com)

Writing

There are too many people on our planet. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

the world / demographic / milestone / population / guess / precise / Earth / growth / trends / lifespans / fertility rate / infants / adult / mortality / migration / countries

True / False

- 1) The article says the world has reached a demagogic milestone. T / F
- 2) A census bureau said the 8 billion was reached on September 26. T / F
- 3) The bureau said population growth would reverse within two decades. T / F
- 4) Earth's population doubled between 1960 and 2000. T / F
- 5) The world population could be 10.2 billion in 2060. T / F
- 6) There will be population growth despite falling fertility rates. T / F
- 7) The number of babies in the world peaked in 2017. T / F
- 8) Fertility rates are falling in nearly 74% of countries. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. somewhat | a. predicted |
| 2. surpassed | b. approximate |
| 3. rough | c. population |
| 4. steady | d. babies |
| 5. inhabitants | e. death |
| 6. forecast | f. slightly |
| 7. reach | g. constant |
| 8. infants | h. live |
| 9. mortality | i. exceeded |
| 10. reside | j. rise to |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of this demographic milestone?
- b) What are the problems of having 8 billion people in the world?
- c) Is your country overpopulated or underpopulated?
- d) Should countries set limits on populations?
- e) Is it good the world population doubled in 40 years?
- f) Why are birth rates falling in many countries?
- g) What do you think of the phrase 'population explosion'?
- h) In what way are the demographics of your country changing?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. reached a somewhat worrying | a. a steady rate |
| 2. the global population exceeded | b. is slowing |
| 3. this was a very rough | c. peaked |
| 4. continue to grow at | d. of fertility |
| 5. The rate of growth | e. guess |
| 6. longer lifespans and lower | f. demographic milestone |
| 7. The world population is projected | g. from larger groups |
| 8. the number of infants already | h. fertility rates |
| 9. population growth in the future will come | i. 8 billion |
| 10. Population growth is the result | j. to keep growing |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why are people living longer?
- What is causing fertility rates to fall?
- What would a world of 10 billion people be like?
- How is migration changing the world?
- What will drive migration in the future?
- What's the best number of children to have?
- What questions would you like to ask the U.S. Census Bureau?

Spelling

- a somewhat worrying emgdparhoic milestone
- the population of our planet has upssarsed 8 billion
- the global population xeeccdeed 8 billion
- the recipse day
- grow at a tsaedy rate
- Earth's iabhiantnts had doubled
- tbritutaed the slowdown in population growth
- lower irtfliety rates
- the number of finants
- the result of fertility, ratolmtiy, migration...
- esirde in countries
- below the elaecrmpnet level

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. b	4. g	5. c
6. a	7. j	8. d	9. e	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Lack of Water

You think a lack of water is the biggest danger of overpopulation. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their danger isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): food riots, biodiversity loss or war.

Role B – Food Riots

You think food riots is is the biggest danger of overpopulation. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their danger isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): lack of water, biodiversity loss or war.

Role C – Biodiversity Loss

You think biodiversity loss is is the biggest danger of overpopulation. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their danger isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): food riots, lack of water or war.

Role D – War

You think war is is the biggest danger of overpopulation. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their danger isn't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): food riots, biodiversity loss or lack of water.

Speaking – Overpopulation

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest dangers of overpopulation at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| • Lack of water | • Migration |
| • Riots | • Biodiversity loss |
| • Pandemics | • War |
| • Deforestation | • Climate change |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.