

Name: _____ Date: _____ Block: _____

Miller and Spoolman's Living in the Environment 16th ed.

Chapter 6 Reading Guide – The Human Population and Its Impact

Case Study – Are There Too Many of Us?

1. Provide an argument for whether or not the world can provide an adequate standard of living for a projected 2.6 billion more people by 2050 without causing widespread environmental damage.

Section 6-1 – How Many People Can the Earth Support?

2. What three factors have resulted in the J-curve of human population growth?
3. Based on what you read in the Science Focus, do you agree or disagree with Malthus' theory on limits on human population growth?
4. Discuss how population growth is unevenly distributed around the world, and how this is connected to the concept of cultural carrying capacity.

Section 6-2 – What Factors Influence the Size of the Human Population?

5. Differentiate between replacement level fertility rate and total fertility rate.
6. Use the United States as a case study to explain each of the factors affecting population growth.
7. List three factors that affect birth and fertility rates and three factors that affect death rates.

Section 6-3 – How Does a Population's Age Structure Affect Its Growth or Decline?

8. Explain how age structure diagrams work.
9. What is the difference between developed and developing countries' age structure diagrams?
10. What problems are associated with countries with populations of mostly older people? Mostly young people? Rising death rates?

Section 6-4 – How Can We Slow Human Population Growth?

11. Explain the four stages of the demographic transition.
12. What is the role of family planning and empowering women in the process of demographic transition?

13. Compare the attempts of China and India to slow population growth. What has worked and why?