

In Focus 2 - Speed Reading Unit 4

The Growing World

In the beginning, Earth was not very crowded. There were enough trees for the air to be clean and enough land for people to live and grow food. But as more and more babies were born, families became bigger, and towns started to grow into cities. Soon, some cities became so big they were like large families of millions of people. These large cities had big buildings, busy streets, and many cars. People had to find new ways to live together in such busy places.

The number of people on Earth was growing like a balloon. This is called population growth. It is like a party where more and more people keep coming, and you need to find space and food for everyone. Why did the population start to grow so fast? Well, there were a few reasons. One reason was that people's health became better. With better health and food, more people lived longer. Another reason was that farming got better. Farmers could grow more food, so there was enough for all the extra people. But with so many people on Earth, there were also challenges. With more people, we needed more houses, more schools, and more hospitals. And we had to be careful with resources, like water and trees, so they would not run out.

Now, let's talk about demographics. Demographics is like a picture of Earth's people. It shows us who lives where, how old they are, and how they live. It helps us understand the big family of Earth. In some places, there are many young people, while in others, there are more old people. Some countries have fast-growing populations, while others have fewer and fewer babies each year. It's important to know about demographics because it helps countries plan for the future. For example, if a country knows it will have lots of children, it needs to build more schools. If it knows there will be more old people, it needs to make sure there are enough hospitals.

What happens if the population keeps growing? Earth might become too crowded. We might not have enough food or space for everyone. That's why leaders are thinking of ways to take care of our world and all its people. One idea is to make sure that everyone understands the importance of taking care of our resources. This means not wasting water, not cutting down too many trees, and finding new ways to make energy that does not harm the world. Another idea is to help people plan their families. This means giving them information and choices about having children. When families can plan, they can make sure that they have the resources to take care of their children.

The story of Earth's growing population is still being written. Every day, we make choices that affect how many people will live on Earth and how we will all live together. It's a big responsibility, but together, we can make sure that Earth remains a happy home for everyone.

When you have finished, write your time in the box.

Now, go to the next page and answer the questions. **Do NOT look back at the text.**

Now, let's test your understanding of the text with some questions.

1. What is the main topic of this story?
 - A) The importance of health care
 - B) Population growth on Earth
 - C) The history of cities
 - D) Farming techniques

2. What happens when the population grows?
 - A) Fewer schools are needed.
 - B) Cities become smaller.
 - C) More resources are required.
 - D) People live shorter lives.

3. What is one reason the population began to grow rapidly?
 - A) Better health care
 - B) Less food available
 - C) Poor medicine
 - D) Fewer people being born

4. What is demographics?
 - A) A type of medicine
 - B) The study of populations
 - C) A plan for building cities
 - D) A resource like water

5. Why is it important to understand demographics?
 - A) To build more cars
 - B) To reduce health care
 - C) To grow more food
 - D) To plan for the future

6. What might happen if Earth becomes too crowded?
 - A) We will have too much space.
 - B) We will need fewer houses.
 - C) There may not be enough resources for everyone.
 - D) People will live longer automatically.

7. How can we take care of our planet's resources?
 - A) By helping families with resources
 - B) By not cutting down any trees
 - C) By finding new energy sources
 - D) By having more parties

8. What does planning families have to do with population growth?
 - A) It can help manage the population size.
 - B) It increases the number of schools.
 - C) It uses up more resources.
 - D) It builds more hospitals.

9. What do countries with many young people need to do?
 - A) Build fewer schools
 - B) Build more schools
 - C) Reduce the number of hospitals
 - D) Stop farming

10. Who makes choices every day that affect the Earth's population?

- A) Only scientists
- B) Only leaders
- C) Only doctors
- D) Everyone