Population Pyramids

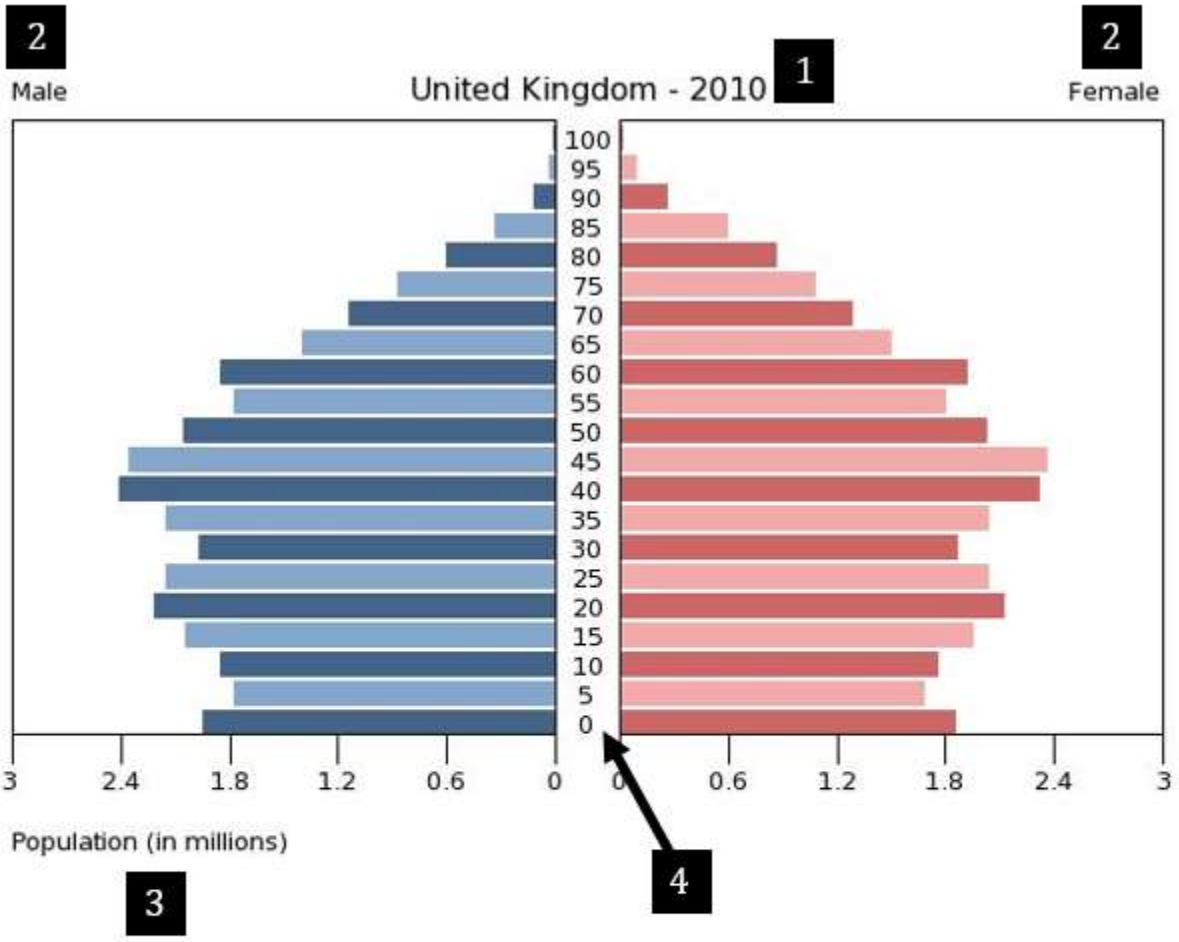
What is a population pyramid?

A population pyramid is a pyramid-shaped diagram illustrating the age distribution of a population; the youngest ages are at the bottom ascending in age till the oldest age at the top of the pyramid.

Key Features:

Age structure: The number of individuals of each age in the population, can predict the growth or decline of the population

Sex ratio: The proportion of males and females and it can influence population growth and happiness of cultures



1. The title of the Population Pyramid. Usually, this is the name of the location along with the year.
2. The left side of the pyramid shows the population distribution of the males while the right side shows the population distribution of the females of the location.
3. Horizontal axis shows the populations (in this case) millions.
4. Vertical axis lists the age group; typically by five year increments.

Types of Population Pyramids

A population pyramid shows the age and gender of a society. Population pyramids allow geographers analyze a place and identify its rate of growth. There are three types of growth; rapid, slow/stable and negative/declining. Below are examples of each stage.

Rapid Growth Population Pyramid

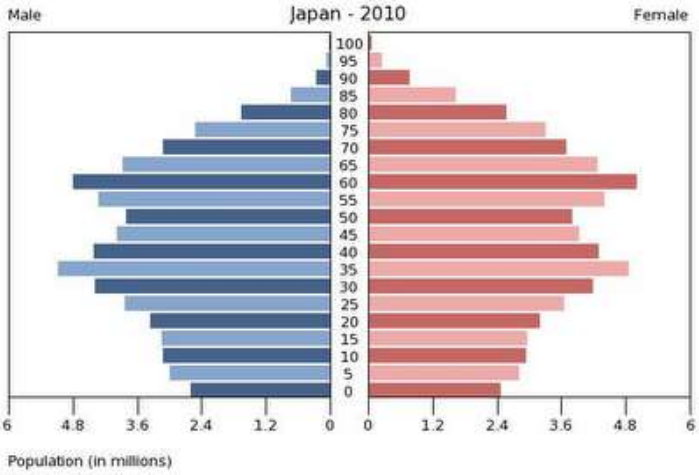
Shape: Looks like a typical pyramid with a large base that gets smaller as you ascend. This type of population typically has poor health care and short life expectancies. Mostly found in under developed and developing countries.

Age Ratio: Large proportion of young high young dependency ratio

Sex Ratio: Balance sex ratio

Implications: Clear need for investment into water supplies, health care, food supplies, housing to reduce death rates and family planning to reduce birth rate.

Examples: Kenya, India



Negative or Declining Growth Population Pyramid

Shape: "Rocket shape" This type of population pyramid is mostly found in developed countries. These countries have good health care, long life expectancies and stable governments. However, their birth rates are lower than needed to replace the population.

Age Ratio: Large proportion of working
Population, low proportion of young dependents

Sex Ratio: Mostly balanced pyramid, often higher older female population.

Implications: Aging population is taxing on the health care system. May not be enough workers to keep the society functioning, typically become dependent on migrant workers.

Examples: Germany, Japan

Slow or Stable Growth Population Pyramid

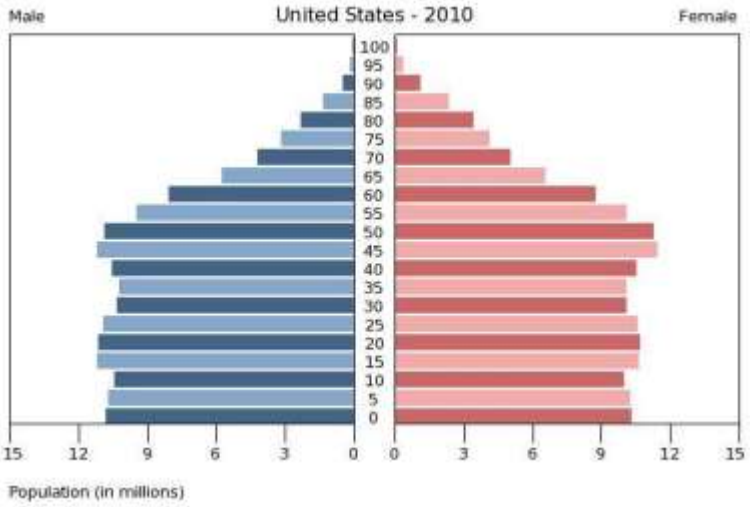
Shape: "Beehive shape" There is little change in the lower sections of the pyramid. Only after the upper ages do you see a marked change in population. This type of population pyramid is mostly found in developed countries sometimes middle income countries. These countries have good health care, long life expectancies and stable governments.

Age Ratio: Bars of equal length – Balance Proportion

Sex Ratio: Balance pyramid - Balance Sex Ratio

Implications: Sustainable, positive outlook

Examples: United States

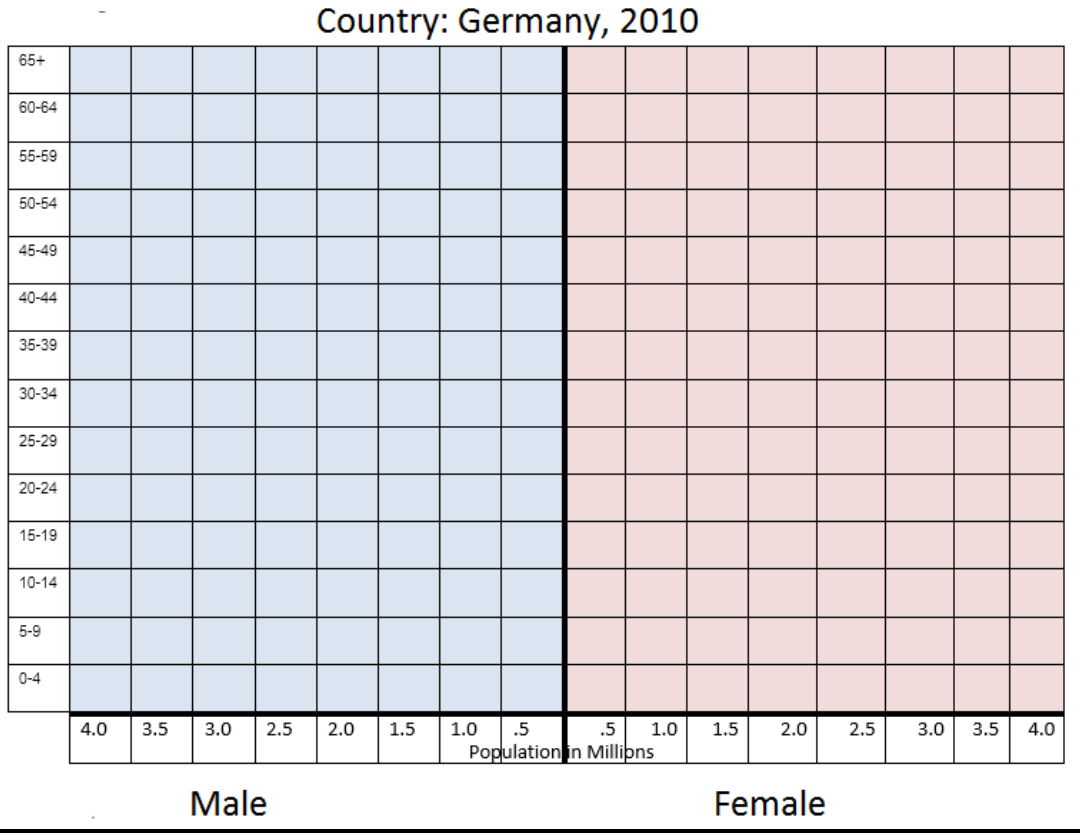


Population Pyramids

Use the data to create your population pyramid in the chart provided below.

Use one color for Males one color for females.

AGE GROUP	POP IN MILLIONS	
	Male	Female
65+	2.2	2.4
60-64	2.2	2.3
55-59	2.7	2.8
50-54	3.1	3.0
45-49	3.6	3.4
40-44	3.4	3.3
35-39	2.6	2.5
30-34	2.4	2.3
25-29	2.4	2.4
20-24	2.5	2.4
15-19	2.1	2.0
10-14	2.0	1.9
5-9	1.8	1.7
0-4	1.7	1.6



1. List that country's name here: _____

   a. What age group has the largest population? _____

   b. Why might this age group be the largest? _____

   _____

   _____

   c. What age group has the largest population for males? _____

   d. What age group has the largest population for females? _____

What observations can you make about this country's health care system and life expectancy? _____

_____

_____

_____

Population Pyramids Comparisons

Answer the following questions below using your population pyramids.

2. From your notes, Identify the which countries are:

    a. Rapid Growth _____

    Why? _____

    b. Stable Growth _____

    Why? _____

    c. Negative Growth _____

    Why? _____

3. Why are there, generally, more females than males in the older age groups? _____

    _____

4. What could a negative growth country do to increase the population of the younger age groups to become more stable? _____

    _____

5. What infrastructures might a rapid growth country improve to stem the high infant mortality rate allowing their growth to become more stable? _____

    _____

6. What factors must a stable growth country focus on to remain stable? _____

    _____