

# Population rates

How fast has population increased over human history?  
What will help slow the rate of increase?

## Materials

- Computer and internet access

## Instructions

1. Go to [pbs.org](http://pbs.org/wgbh/nova/earth/global-population-growth.html) and launch the interactive map: Human Numbers Through Time: [pbs.org/wgbh/nova/earth/global-population-growth.html](http://pbs.org/wgbh/nova/earth/global-population-growth.html)
2. Using the chart, determine the year the population number was reached, then the number of years it has taken to increase population by 1 billion or double (where appropriate).

|           | Human population | Year | Years to next billion/double |
|-----------|------------------|------|------------------------------|
| 1 billion |                  |      |                              |
| 2 billion |                  |      |                              |
| 3 billion |                  |      |                              |
| 4 billion |                  |      |                              |
| 5 billion |                  |      |                              |
| 6 billion |                  |      |                              |
| 7 billion |                  |      |                              |

Graph these results on iPad GraphBoard app or on graph paper.

3. What reasons can you give for the decreasing time between billions?

## Reflection

What factors must be considered to project future growth?