Lesson ideas for geography teachers to share: population pyramids

Go to
https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/ukpopulationpyramidinteractive/2020-01-08

Activity
Start by browsing through the data. If you click the ‘Play’ button the interactive will play the population pyramids as if they are all streamed together, jumping in 10 year intervals from 1998 to 2038.

1. Population pyramids are classified into 4 shapes: early expanding, stationary, expanding and contracting. Can you match these titles to the shapes below?

2. In each population pyramid there are a number of key terms. Can you match the key terms to their meanings below?

   Death rate, birth rate, the economically active, old age, the dependency ratio, and life expectancy (research concave and convex to extend the activity)

3. Return to the ONS population pyramid. How would you describe the 2018 UK population now? Overall, is it young, middle aged or old? Does the UK have a ‘dependent’ population?

4. What do you think are the challenges with this type of demographic?

5. Are there any opportunities for the UK with this type of demographic?