

Lesson ideas for geography teachers to share: Our population

Answers

1. Why is it important for the ONS to research and publish population statistics?
Sharing information is particularly important in analysing who is vulnerable to coronavirus (COVID-19). The ONS have completed data research into the over 70s.
2. What is projected for 2031?
The UK population may reach 70 million. The population aged over 85 will almost double over the next 25 years to 3 million.
3. What exactly do the ONS say we can learn from the past?
Population is likely to be determined by a combination of factors. These include economic performance, health and well-being, household dynamics and finances, the potential impact of conflict, cultural change, social developments, and political and policy responses to these factors, or interventions that affect them.

Click the last link in the blog titled *Our population – Where are we? How did we get here? Where are we going?* And go to section 2 Births and Deaths since 1901.

1. Write one sentence of description for each of the three UK population pyramids.
Pyramid 1901 has a wide base (0-4, 5-9, 10-14) and narrow top (65-69, 70-74, 75+) showing a high number of children and a high death rate. Pyramid 1951 has a considerable 'bulge' in the working middle-age age group (35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54), there is a strange anomaly in the 30-34 age group which drops suddenly in population. Pyramid 2018 shows a consistent population with lowering birth rates (0-4) and longer life expectancy past retirement – there are few young dependents and more elderly dependents.
2. Describe how the UK population has changed over 117 years.
The population of the UK has become more balanced between the age groups over the past 117 years.
3. Click on the green box titled .csv and download the data. Practice drawing a population pyramid for one of these three dates.
4. Jump to Figure 5. What has happened to life expectancy in the UK and why?
As the UK has developed life expectancy has dramatically risen over time. This is due to improved medical care, increased vaccinations, better general health, better diets and a greater understanding of the need for regular, moderate exercise.

Go to section 3 Migration.

1. What does most migration tend to be? What are reasons listed for it?
Most migration is domestic: people moving to a different place in the same country. The reasons are varied. Individuals might move to be closer to their own children and grandchildren (who themselves might have moved away from home at a previous time). Or we might want to escape to the country, when we retire. Later, we might have to move for medical or care reasons. Some young adults migrate to take up full-time university education, or when they form a marriage or partnership. A reason for migration can be as simple as wanting more space. Alternatively, someone might move to take up a new employment, to be closer to where they work, or to seek out better job prospects. We might move because we can't afford to support ourselves anymore where we currently live. Some



individuals are forced to try and earn money elsewhere, in order to support their family who are left behind. Finally, we might move because external events such as wars, civil unrest and persecution, or food and water shortages, have made it untenable or unsafe to remain where we were.

2. Figure 8. Describe the long term International Migration, to and from the UK from 1964 to 2018.

Post WWII Commonwealth citizens were encouraged to come to the UK, such as the Windrush generation, although by the 1960s stricter immigration controls came into force. Between 1945 and 1982 UK citizens were encourage to populate Australia under the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme. In 1973 the UK joined the EEC (European Economic Community) although it was not until many Eastern European countries joined the EU (European Union) in 2004 that inward migration dramatically increased. Overall, more people have been moving to the UK than leaving it since 1994. This changed the UK labour market and on 23 June 2016, Britain voted to leave the EU. In 1997 there was an influx of immigration from Hong Kong as the UK handed back control of the city state to China.