

## The Population Institute's 40<sup>th</sup> Earth Day Population Quiz

*April 22, 2010, marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Earth Day, held in 1970. Population growth is a major factor affecting the future of the Earth and every living being on the planet. Do you know the answers to the following questions?*

- 1) World population today is 6.8 billion. What was the population of the world when the first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970?
  - a. 2.7 billion
  - b. 3.7 billion
  - c. 4.7 billion
  - d. 5.7 billion
  
- 2) According to the United Nations, what will the population of the world be in 2050 when the 80<sup>th</sup> Earth Day is celebrated?
  - a. 7.5 billion
  - b. 8.2 billion
  - c. 8.9 billion
  - d. 9.2 billion
  
- 3) World population today is how many times larger than it was 300 years ago?
  - a. 4 times
  - b. 6 times
  - c. 8 times
  - d. 10 times
  
- 4) How many people in the world today go to bed hungry?
  - a. 200 million
  - b. 400 million
  - c. 800 million
  - d. 1 billion
  
- 5) According to the United Nations, food production in developing countries will have to increase by what percentage over the next 40 years?
  - a. 25 percent
  - b. 50 percent
  - c. 75 percent
  - d. 100 percent

- 6) By the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century what percentage of plant and animal species could be threatened with extinction?
  - a. 10 percent
  - b. 25 percent
  - c. 50 percent
  - d. 75 percent
  
- 7) How many women (of reproductive age) in the world want to avoid a pregnancy, but are not using modern methods of contraception?
  - a. 50 million
  - b. 100 million
  - c. 150 million
  - d. 200 million
  
- 8) Women in developing countries have a higher risk of dying from pregnancy-related causes than women in developed countries. In sub-Saharan Africa, the rate of maternal death is how many times higher than the United States?
  - a. 3 times
  - b. 30 times
  - c. 300 times
  - d. 3000 times
  
- 9) What percentage of U.S. foreign aid (in fiscal year 2010) will support family planning and reproductive health services?
  - a. 1 percent
  - b. 5 percent
  - c. 8 percent
  - d. 15 percent
  
- 10) The World Wildlife Fund estimates that human demands on the Earth's living resources exceed the planet's capacity by about 30 percent. In 25 years, how many Earths will we need to sustain our projected lifestyles?
  - a. 1.5
  - b. 1.75
  - c. 2.0
  - d. 3.0

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### **--Answers--**

1. **b.** World population was 3.7 billion in 1970. Over the past four decades, the number of humans on the planet has grown by 3.1 billion--an increase of 84%.
2. **d.** According to the latest “medium variant” projection issued by the United Nations Population Division, world population will reach 9.2 billion by 2050, an increase of nearly 2.5 billion over current levels. That projection assumes, however, that birth rates will continue to decline.
3. **d.** World population in 1700 was about 600 million. Today it is 6.8 billion. By 2050, world population could be *15 times higher* than it was in 1700.
4. **d.** The U.N.’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimated last year that 1.02 billion people went to bed hungry every night. Hunger has been increasing for more than a decade, and the problem could grow worse in the decades ahead.
5. **d.** The FAO estimates that global grain production will need to increase by 75 percent by mid-century in order to keep up with population growth and changing diets. Developing countries, however, will need to *double* their food production to keep pace with population growth.
6. **c.** Leading biologists, including Harvard’s E.O. Wilson, are concerned that human activity could endanger half of the world’s plant and animal species by the end of the century. They warn that the Earth is now experiencing the “sixth mass extinction,” the first since the dinosaurs were wiped out 65 millions years ago.
7. **d.** According to UNFPA, “An estimated 215 million women who want to avoid a pregnancy are not using an effective method of contraception.”
8. **c.** The maternal death rate is more than 300 times higher. According to the World Health Organization, a woman in sub-Saharan Africa has a 1 in 22 chance of dying from pregnancy or childbirth. In developed countries, including the U.S., the lifetime risk of maternal death is only 1 in 7,300.
9. **a.** For fiscal year 2010, Congress last year approved a \$648 million appropriation for international family planning and reproductive health services, just 1.3 percent of the \$48.7 billion in foreign assistance approved by Congress.
10. **c.** The 2008 *Living Planet Report*, produced by the World Wildlife Fund and the Global Footprint Network, warns that, “If our demands on the planet continue to increase at the same rate, by the mid-2030s we would need the equivalent of two planets to maintain our lifestyles.”