

Education for Sustainable Development

Discussion Topic 3: Factors that affect population growth

Here is a discussion topic for your class:

1. Divide into pairs and read the information below
2. Discuss the information with the other person in your pair
3. Now have a class discussion on the main factors that affect population growth
4. Fill out the rest of the worksheet
5. Create a simple infographic to explain desertification

Factors that affect population growth

There has been a population explosion in recent decades and here are some of the factors that have influenced it:

(1) Health:

In 2016 90% of the world's population had access to safe drinking water.

Unsafe drinking water carries diseases such as typhoid and cholera.

Access to clean drinking water has caused death rates to drop.

(2) Food Supply:

Since the agricultural revolution (18th and 19th century) there has been an increased in food supply due to improved farming techniques.

The earth is now able to support more people e.g. Brazil 1900 17 million, 2016 207 million.

(3) Education:

Education of women can lead to a reduction in family size and improved basic health.

Costa Rica is encouraging women's education.

This allows the birth rate to remain low.

(4) War:

War causes a huge increase in the death rate of a country e.g. Syria

It can also lead to the death of families due to disrupted food supply and healthcare.

In the Third World since 1945, over 150 wars have been fought killing over 22 million people.

(5) Improved Technology:

The agricultural revolution lead to improved machinery e.g. combine harvester, this has allowed for increased crop yields.

With the introduction of fertilisers and irrigation schemes the farming of infertile land.

(6) Status of Women:

In First World countries women have a far higher status, this is mainly due to female education and the feminist movement.

Women often have careers and plan their own families (Ireland less than 2 children).

In Third World countries women tend to perform traditional roles and often have bigger families, as they do not have access to family planning (Ethiopia 4.9 children).

Student Worksheet

Ideas Box for Class Discussion

3 things that I already knew about the factors that affect population growth:

3 things that I have learned from the class discussion on the factors that affect population growth:

1 thing I would still like to learn about the factors that affect population growth:

Factors that affect Population Growth Infographic

