

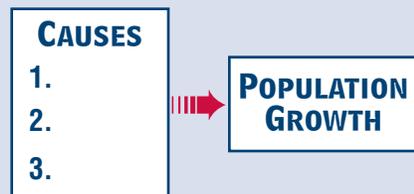
# Balancing Population and Resources

## WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

To understand the problems associated with rapid population growth in developing countries

## READING STRATEGY

Create a diagram like the one below and list three causes of world population growth.



## TERMS TO KNOW

developing country, birthrate, death rate

Have you ever gone to a store to buy something only to find that none was left? Perhaps you were told to come back the next day, or the next week. You may not have been pleased, but you probably did not suffer lasting harm. However, what if you had been shopping for food? What if all the food was gone?

More and more, food shortages are becoming a problem in **developing countries**. Developing countries are countries with a low standard of living and little industry. Although modern machinery has been recently introduced, many farmers still rely on traditional farming methods. The use of fertilizers and pesticides has increased over the last several years. But some developing countries still have trouble growing enough food to feed their growing populations.

## Why World Population Is Increasing

Population growth is another issue for developing countries. People often tend to have large families. One reason is that parents depend on their children to take care of them in old age. A man and woman may also have many children to help work and support the family. Another reason for large families is the high infant mortality rate in some countries. Having many children makes it more likely that some will survive to adulthood.

However, population growth does not depend just on the **birthrate**, the number of births per 1,000 of a population each



In Rajasthan, India, some farmers still rely on traditional farming methods.

year. Population growth also depends on the **death rate**, the number of deaths per 1,000 of a population each year. In the last 40 years, the death rate in almost every country in the world has decreased. This has occurred mainly because of better medical care. People have also had access to more and better food.

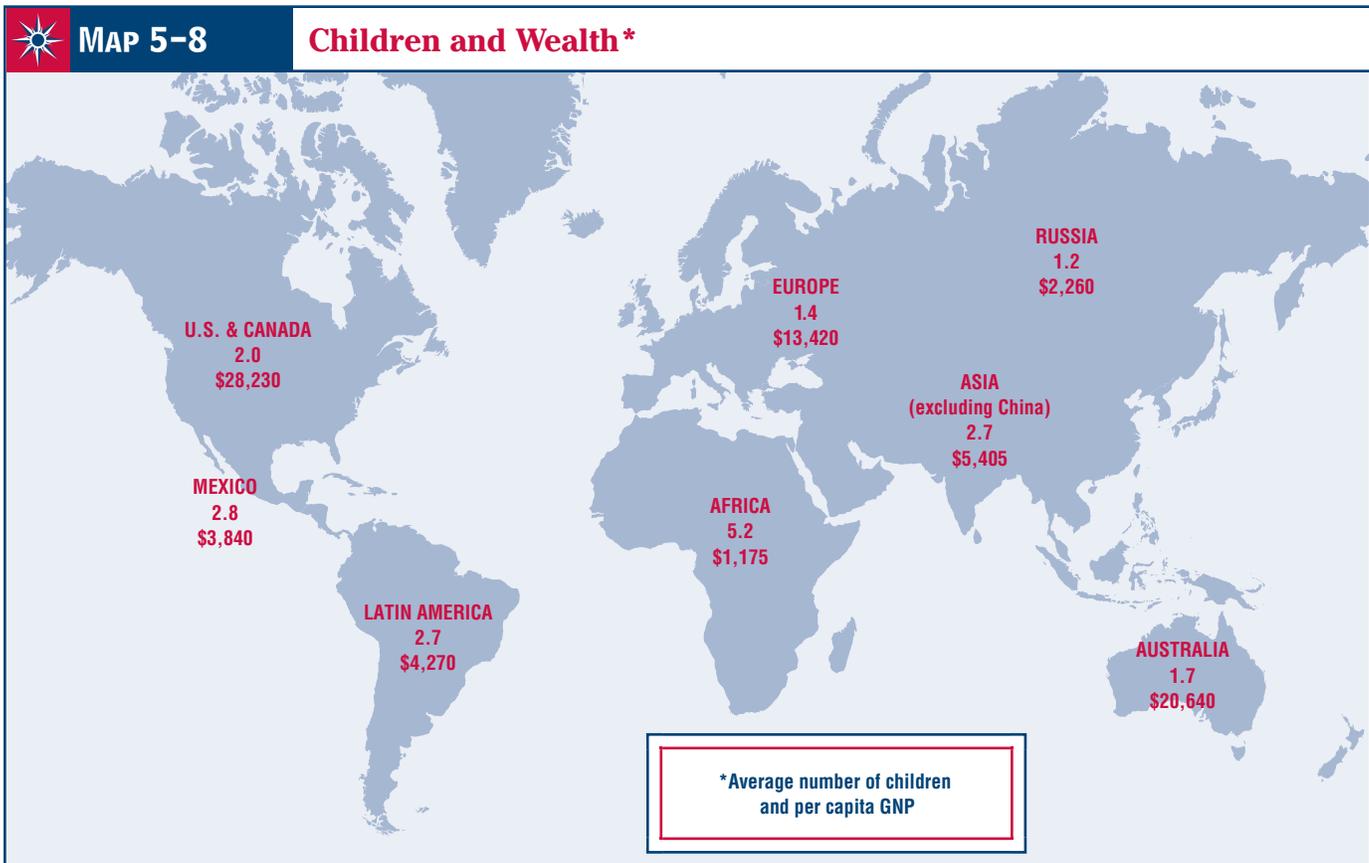
Although the death rate has decreased in most developing countries, birthrates have continued to remain high in many of them. This has caused a huge increase in the world's population in just a few years. And as expected, most of this increase has been in the developing countries.

Look at **Map 5-8**. Each region of the world shown has two figures printed on it. The top figure shows the average number of children in each family in that region. The bottom figure shows the value of goods and services produced by each person in that region each year. The larger this figure is, the more money people in that country are likely to have to spend.

## Rapid Population Growth

A large percentage of the population of developing countries is made up of children. Before better medical care, many children died at an early age. For example, in Africa in 1950, 182 children out of every 1,000 born died before reaching their first birthday. By 2000, only 79 out of 1,000 died. In South America the rate fell from 126 to 34. In Asia it dropped from 155 to 51. These figures are still far higher than in developed countries. In the United States, for example, only 7 of 1,000 children die before their first birthday.

The decreasing death rate in developing countries has caused the number of children to grow very quickly. Large numbers of children are a drain on a country's resources. Children need food, clothing, schools, doctors, and much more. Developing countries have to spend much of their money just feeding their people. Little money is left for better roads, schools, or factories to create more jobs.

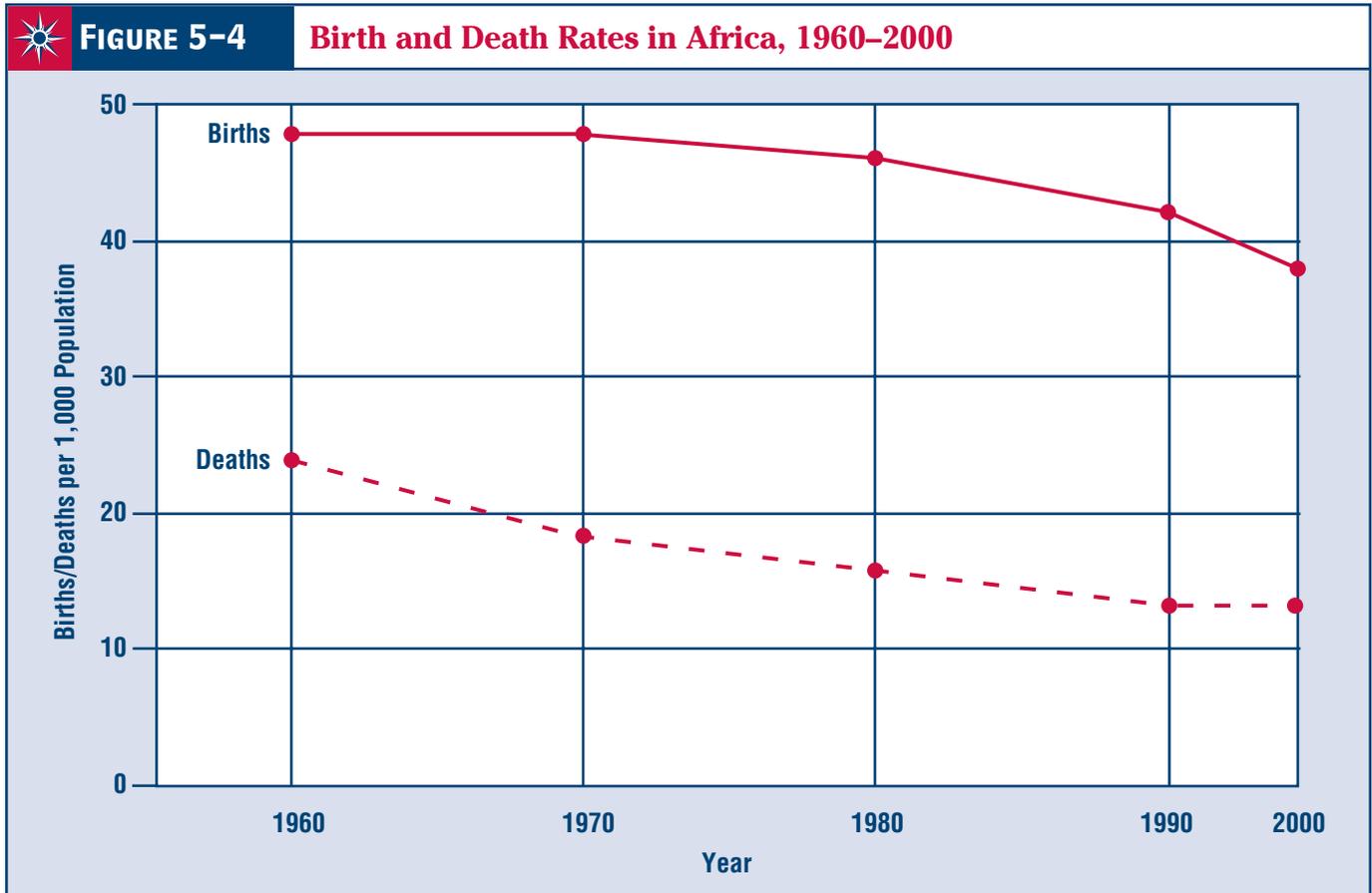


Source: *World Population Data Sheet, 2001*

## Using Your Skills

### A RECALLING FACTS

Answer these questions about **Figure 5-4**.

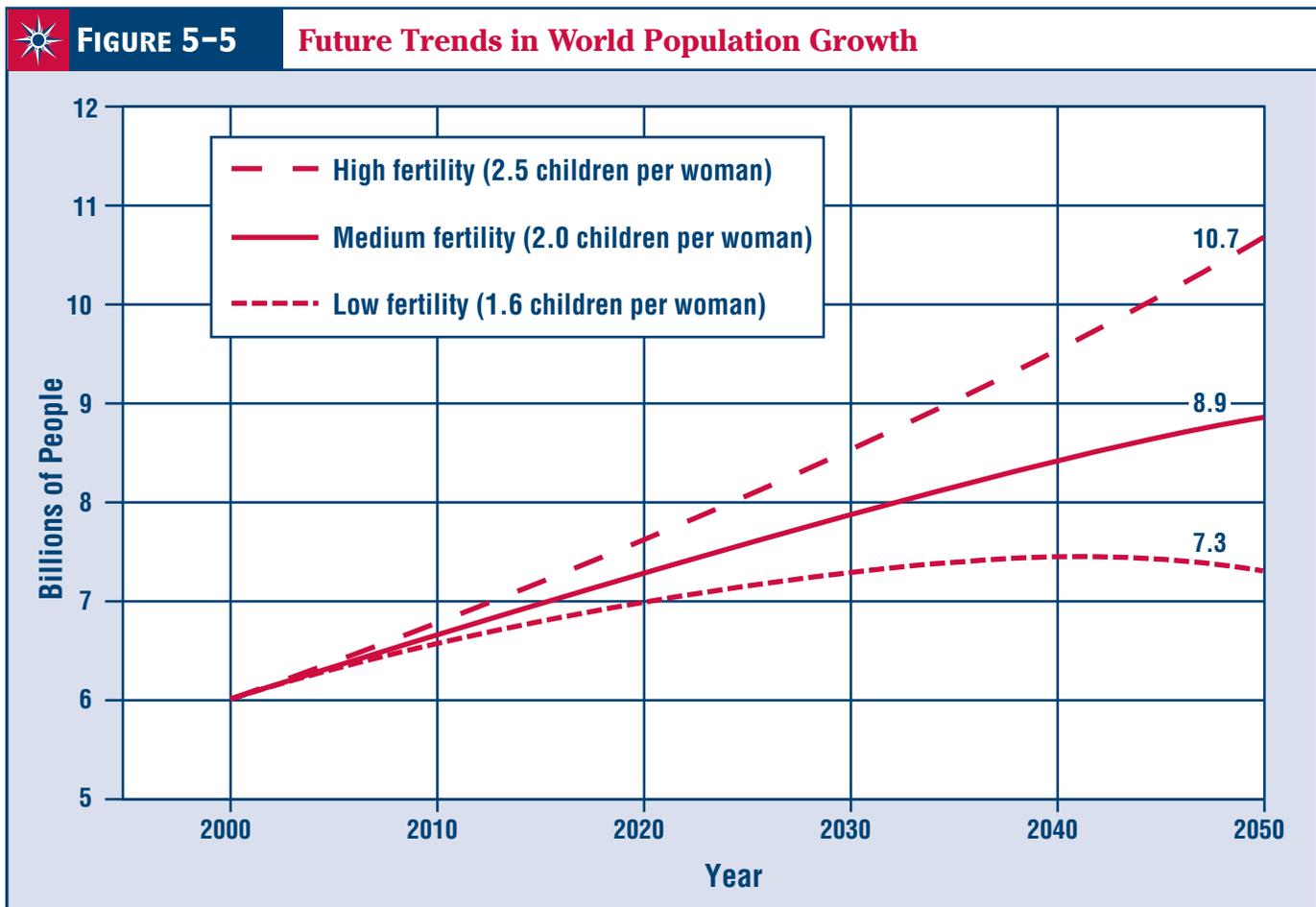


Source: *World Population Data Sheet, 2001*

1. What is the title of this graph? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does the solid line on the graph stand for? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What does the broken line on the graph stand for? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What happened to the birthrate in Africa between 1960 and 2000?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What happened to the death rate in Africa between 1960 and 2000?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What will happen to the population of Africa if the birthrate remains high and the death rate continues to fall?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## B RECALLING FACTS

Use **Figure 5-5** to answer these questions.



Source: *World Population Data Sheet, 2001*

1. What does this graph show?  

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2. If the average world family today has 2.5 children, according to the graph, what will be the population of the world in the year 2050 if this continues?  

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3. What would happen to world population if each family had only two children?  

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