

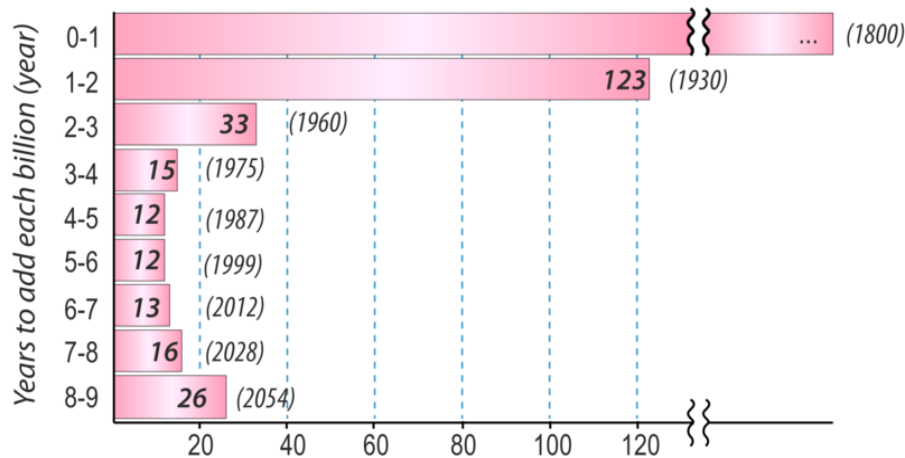
Growth of Human Populations

The Rate of Growth

- Although the population continues to grow rapidly, the rate of increase in growth has declined over the past few years
- The rate of growth of a population is determined by the **natality** (birth rate) and the **mortality** (death rate).
- A high rate of growth can be attributed to lower mortality rates in developed nations.
- Limiting factors such as the amount of space, pollution, and resources can determine the maximum population of a region.

Study Tip

Advances in sanitation and technology were responsible for the rapid rate of growth in the human population.



Although the world's population continues to grow, it is increasing at a decreasing rate.

Concept Check

- How does the Earth's population increase or decrease?
- Why do you think that the rate of the increase of population skyrocketed during the 19th and 20th centuries?
- Is the growth of the human population a good thing? What positive and negative effects come from it?