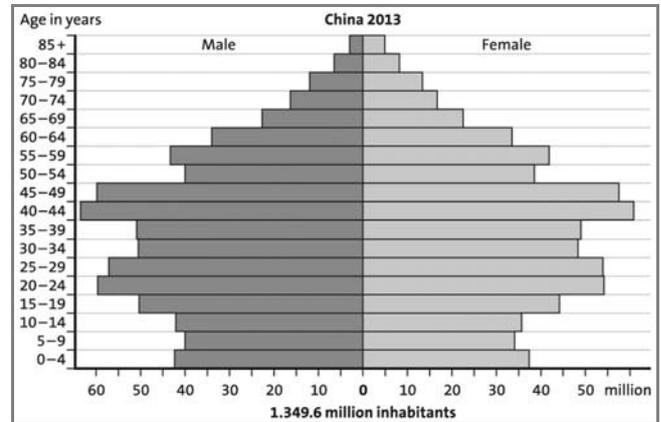
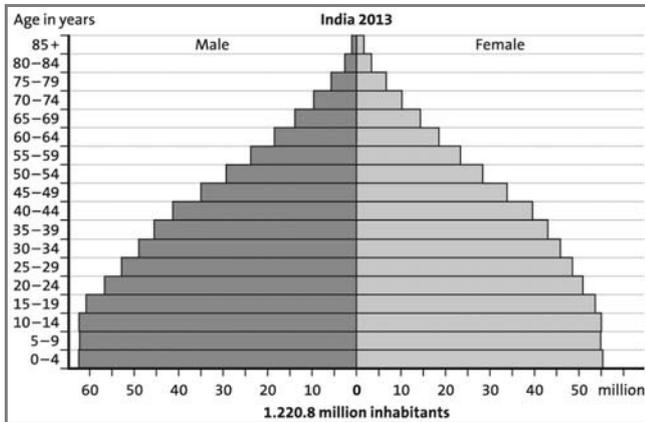


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TERRA Skill: Analysing population pyramids

Working with population diagrams: Comparing India and China

India and China are the countries with the highest population numbers in the world. More than one billion people live in each of the two countries. One person in three in the world is Indian or Chinese. But the population diagrams of the two countries illustrate that the population development is very different.



1 Name the type of population pyramid in India and China.

India: Expansive population diagram

China: Stationary population diagram

2 Children in India and China

a) Compare the number of children younger than four in India and China.

In India there are about 118 million children younger than four, in China there are only about 78 million.

So in India there are a lot more children in this age group.

b) Find possible reasons for the difference.

In India, people may need children to look after them when they are old. Maybe there is no access to contraceptives in India or religious beliefs do not allow contraceptives. It is also possible that people in rural areas need their children to help on the farms. In China, parents may decide to have fewer children because there may be disadvantages if they have many children.

3 Boys and girls

a) Compare the number of boys between 0 and 14 years and girls between 0 and 14 years in India and China.

In India, there are about 190 million boys and 165 million girls, in China there are 120 million boys and about 110 million girls. So, in both countries there are more boys than girls, in India the difference is larger.

b) Find possible reasons for the difference.

Parents think boys are more important for the families because they hope they can support their parents better. Maybe they fear that the daughters leave the house when they marry. Perhaps the parents must pay a lot of money when their daughters marry.

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4 Find the age group in which there are about as many Indian as Chinese people.

That is the age group of the 30 to 34-year-olds. There are about 100 million people in this age group in both countries.

5 Analyse the different population developments in India and China in the future.

The population in India will increase drastically. The population in China will grow a bit in the next years, but then the number will decrease.

6 Discuss the population problems the two countries might face in the future.

India: It will be difficult for India to feed all its people. It will not be easy to provide enough schools for all children. The young people will have problems finding a job. Men will have trouble finding wives.

China: A decreasing number of young people will have to support a growing number of old people. Men will also have trouble finding wives.

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