

Reading Population Clues

Use several demographic measures to infer economic development.

WG.12.a "examining the relationship between demographic data to determine the level of economic development;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each demographic measure, then number the clues that could help you infer a country's level of economic development.

More Than One Number

- ① Demographic data describe a population through measures such as birth rate, death rate, life expectancy, and infant mortality. These measures can suggest, but do not prove, a country's level of economic development. Communities with reliable health care, sanitation, education, and steady incomes often show longer lives and fewer infant deaths. Compare several measures, not one number.

ANNUAL DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR FOUR IMAGINARY COUNTRIES

Country	Births per 1,000	Deaths per 1,000	Life Expectancy, Years	Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births
Arden	10	8	81	3
Bela	31	7	69	22
Canto	38	12	60	42
Dara	18	6	75	9

- ② The table gives data for four imaginary countries. Birth and death rates are births or deaths per 1,000 people, while infant mortality counts deaths before age one per 1,000 live births. Look for clusters of evidence. A low birth rate paired with long life expectancy may point in a direction from a high birth rate paired with many infant deaths.
- ③ Demographic patterns are not a scorecard for individual people. A nation can have rising incomes while some regions still lack clinics or safe water. Migration, conflict, disease outbreaks, and government policy can also affect the numbers. Therefore, describe the evidence first, then use careful language such as "more likely" when you infer a relative level of development.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which country has the strongest evidence of a higher level of economic development? Cite two data values that support your inference.

2 Calculate natural increase by subtracting the death rate from the birth rate. Which country has the largest natural increase, and what is it?

3 Between Bela and Canto, which country is more likely to have a higher level of economic development? Use two comparisons from the table.

4 What relationship between life expectancy and infant mortality appears across all four countries?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create a demographic profile for an imaginary country that is more likely to have a lower level of economic development. Enter a value for each measure and explain what each value may suggest.

MEASURE	VALUE	WHAT IT MAY SUGGEST

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each demographic measure, then number the clues that could help you infer a country's level of economic development. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which country has the strongest evidence of a higher level of economic development? Cite two data values that support your inference.	Arden. It has a life expectancy of 81 years and an infant mortality rate of 3 per 1,000 live births. Its birth rate is also low, 10 per 1,000.
2	Calculate natural increase by subtracting the death rate from the birth rate. Which country has the largest natural increase, and what is it?	Canto, 26 per 1,000 people, because 38 minus 12 equals 26.
3	Between Bela and Canto, which country is more likely to have a higher level of economic development? Use two comparisons from the table.	Bela. Its life expectancy is higher, 69 years compared with 60 years, and its infant mortality is lower, 22 compared with 42 per 1,000 live births. Bela also has a lower birth rate.
4	What relationship between life expectancy and infant mortality appears across all four countries?	Countries with higher life expectancy have lower infant mortality. Countries with lower life expectancy have higher infant mortality.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

MEASURE	VALUE	WHAT IT MAY SUGGEST
Birth rate	37 per 1,000 people	A high birth rate may suggest faster population growth.
Death rate	11 per 1,000 people	A higher death rate may reflect weaker health conditions.
Life expectancy	59 years	Shorter average lives may signal less access to health care.
Infant mortality	45 per 1,000 live births	Many infant deaths may signal limited medical care or sanitation.

Accept conclusions supported by at least two related measures, especially life expectancy and infant mortality. Students may use careful qualifying language because demographic data suggest development levels rather than proving them.