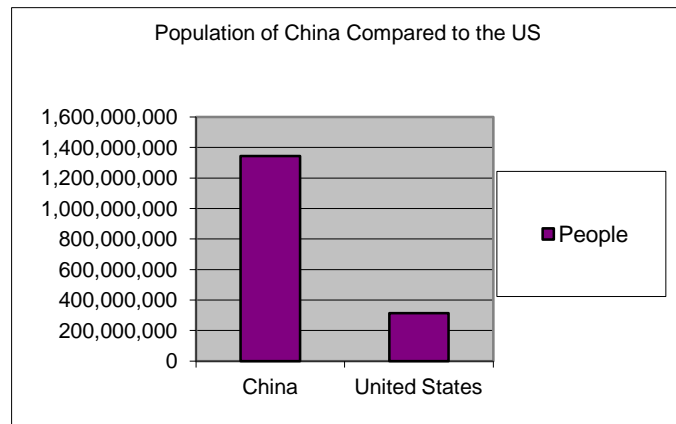


China Today China's Population



China has more people than any other country in the world. China is almost **equivalent**,¹ land-wise, to the United States. However, China has a much larger population.

The bars on the graph above compare the populations of China and the United States. Over 1,300,000,000 people live in China. This is four times more than the number of people who live in the United States!

Many Chinese live in cities. As people move to the cities, the cities grow. People build houses and businesses on land that was once used for farming. Then the land can no longer be used to grow crops. This makes it hard for China to grow enough food for its people.

The government was not sure there was enough food to feed people in the growing cities. So lawmakers tried to keep the cities from growing. The government even made a law to control **population growth**.² The law said that most families living in cities should only have one child. Parents who have more than one child would have to pay a **fine**.³

¹ **equivalent**- alike in size

² **population growth**- the increase in the number of people in a place

³ **fine**- a sum of money given when a rule or law is broken

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. According to the passage, China's population is
 - a. about equal to the U.S. population
 - b. about four times larger than the U.S. population
 - c. about half of the U.S. population
 - d. only a tiny bit more than the U.S. population

 2. Why does the author include information about the U.S. population?
 - a. to compare whether China or the U.S. is a better country
 - b. to show that China is smaller than most other countries
 - c. to help the reader understand how many people live in China
 - d. to prove that China needs to increase its population

 3. Based on information in this passage, it can be concluded that
 - a. it would be better if people only lived in city areas.
 - b. China's population wants to move to other countries.
 - c. there is more than enough land in China to grow food for everyone.
 - d. the Chinese government is worried about the population.

 4. Read the following sentences: "People build houses and businesses on land that was once used for farming. Then the land can no longer be used to grow crops."
- The word **crops** means
- a. food that is farmed
 - b. types of businesses
 - c. children
 - d. apartment buildings
-
5. This passage is mostly about
 - a. the differences between China and the United States.
 - b. the size of China's population and where people live.
 - c. laws in China about the population.
 - d. why it's hard to have children in cities.

6. What law did China's government make to try to control the population?

7. Explain how making more food might solve a population problem instead of having to decrease the population.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose answer that best completes the sentence.

China has a lot more people than the United States, _____ both countries have about the same amount of land.

- a. for example
- b. in particular
- c. therefore
- d. even though

9. Read the following sentence.

The government in China only allows families in cities to have one child in order to control the population.

Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

- 1. Who? the government
- 2. What does the government do? _____
- 3. Why? _____
- 4. Where? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** equivalent: equal, the same.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 670

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: China has more people than any other country in the world. Most Chinese people live in cities, but lawmakers in China have a law limiting people in cities to have only one child or they have to pay a fine.

1. According to the passage, China's population is
 - a. about equal to the U.S. population
 - b. about four times larger than the U.S. population**
 - c. about half of the U.S. population
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2. Why does the author include information about the U.S. population?
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 - b. China's population wants to move to other countries.
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 - d. the Chinese government is worried about the population.**
4. Read the following sentences: "People build houses and businesses on land that was once used for farming. Then the land can no longer be used to grow **crops**."

The word **crops** means

- a. food that is farmed**
- b. types of businesses
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5. This passage is mostly about

- a. the differences between China and the United States.
- b. the size of China's population and where people live.**
- c. laws in China about the population.
- d. why it's hard to have children in cities.

6. What law did China's government make to try to control the population?

Suggested answer: The law said that most people in cities should only have one child, or else they would have to pay a fine.

7. Explain how making more food might solve a population problem instead of having to decrease the population.

Suggested answer: If a country has enough food to feed its people, there might not be any reason to worry about the population being large.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose answer that best completes the sentence.

China has a lot more people than the United States, _____ both countries have about the same amount of land.

- a. for example
- b. in particular
- c. therefore
- d. even though**

9. Read the following sentence.

The government in China only allows families in cities to have one child in order to control the population.

Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

- 1. Who? the government
- 2. What does the government do? **only allows families in cities to have one child**
- 3. Why? **in order to control the population**
- 4. Where? **in China**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** equivalent: equal, the same

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.