

6. Why does a population not level off during the same year it reaches zero population growth?
7. If the carrying capacity of the earth was 9 billion people, when would this number be reached (according to your graph)?
8. What will happen when the human population exceeds the earth's carrying capacity?

Thinking Questions: (Discuss with your partner the answers to the following questions and answer them on a separate sheet of paper)

1. Explain the difference between density-dependent and density-independent factors that can limit a population's growth. Give an example of each type of factor.
2. Give three examples of how a habitat's carrying capacity might change over time.
3. What prevents predators from eliminating prey populations?
4. Cite three recent environmental upheavals that may have had a density-independent influence on wildlife populations.