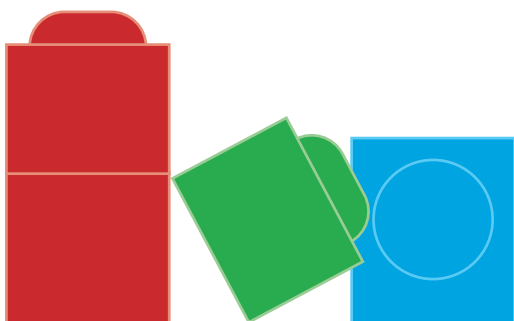
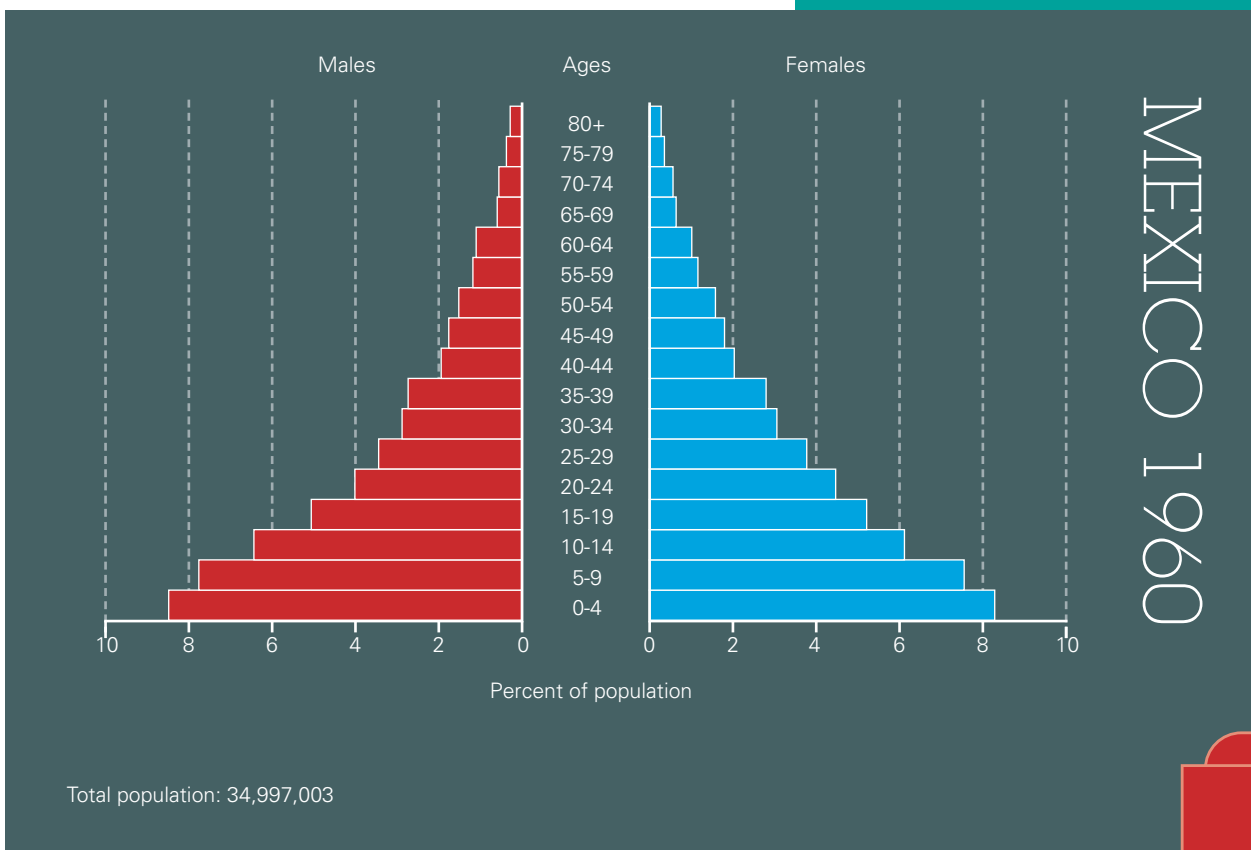


Build a Population Pyramid

A population pyramid is a graph showing how many males and females of different age groups are in a population. Try building some of these population pyramids by stacking the Lego to look like the pictures below, or create your own!

MEXICO 1960 – Expansive population

The population pyramid of Mexico in 1960 depicts a population that is young and growing; each age group is larger than the one before it. Populations with this shape of pyramid have a higher number of births and die at a younger age.



USA 2010

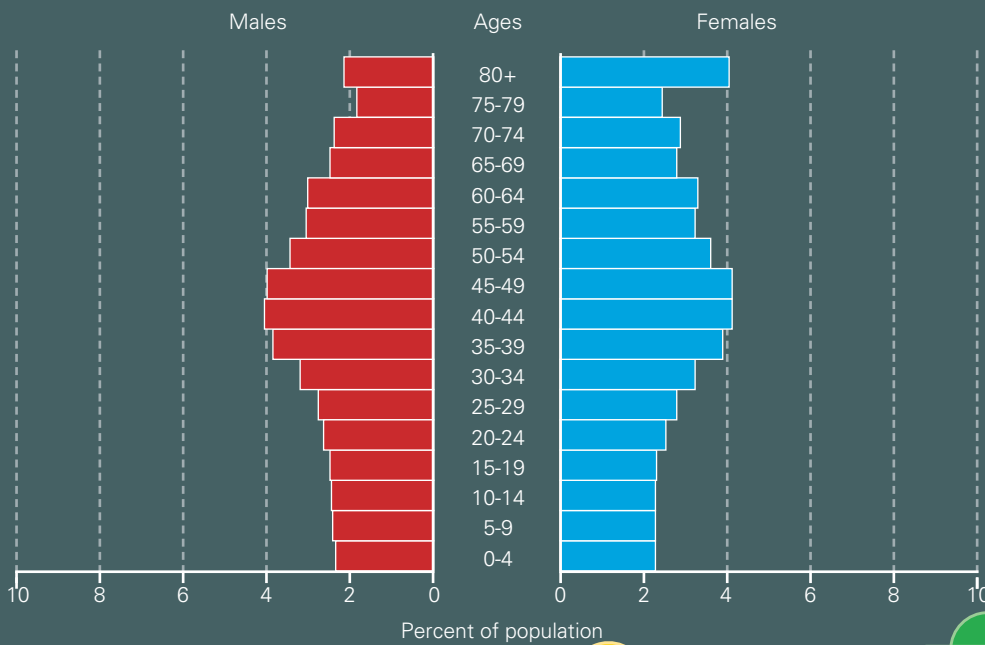
USA 2010 – stationary/stable population

The population pyramid of the USA in 2010 describes a stable population; one that isn't growing or shrinking. The bars are about equal in all age groups, but become smaller at the top as people in the older age groups die. Populations with pyramids of this shape have about replacement fertility and higher life expectancy (longer lives). Replacement fertility is when there are enough babies being born to replace one generation to the next (e.g. two babies for every two adults).



Total population: 308,745,538

ITALY 2011



Total population: 59,433,744

Italy 2011 – Declining/aging population

The population pyramid of Italy in 2011 shows a population that is declining; there are fewer young people compared to older generations. In this population, people are living to older ages but there are fewer births.

Reading a population pyramid

- 1 The left shows males and the right shows females. A pyramid that isn't symmetrical shows differences in the male and female population.

- 2 The width of the base indicates the birth rate, a wide base means lots of births.

- 3 The shape of the sides indicates death rate; concave sides indicate a high death rate and convex sides indicate a low death rate.

Play with more Population Pyramids online:
<http://pyramids.cpc.ac.uk>

Source: Cooke, R, Ezard, T & Bijak, J (2016)
 Population Pyramids Database; The dynamics
 of population structures, University of
 Southampton, UK