

1.5 If the World Were a Village of 100 People

Source: David Smith, *If the World were a Village* (Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press)

Instructions: If the total population of the planet Earth in the year 2000 (over six billion people) was made equal to 100 people, then in 1000 BC there was only 1 person. By 500 BC the population had doubled to 2 people. In 1000 AD there were only 5 people on the Earth and in 1500 AD there were only 8 people. However by 1900 AD there were 32 people and by 2000 AD there were 100. If population growth rates continue there will be nearly 200 people on Earth by 2050. What is happening to the human population? What is happening to the rate of change? What historical developments make these changes possible? In your opinion, what problems will the Earth face as a result of these changes and what are the potential solutions?

