

If the World were a Village

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

As of January 1, 2002, the world's population was 6.2 billion people. This is an incredibly large number and hard to work with. However, imagine the world was a village of only 100 people. What would that village look like?

Of the 100 people in the global village:

61% are from Asia; 13% are from Africa; 12% are from Europe; 8% are from Latin America and the Caribbean; 5% are from the United States and Canada; and 1% is from Oceania.

21% are from China; 17% are from India; 5% are from the United States; 4% are from Indonesia; 3% are from Brazil; and 3% are from Pakistan.

22% speak a Chinese dialect (18% speak Mandarin); 9% speak English; 8% speak Hindi, 7% speak Spanish; 4% speak Arabic; and 4% speak Bengali.

10% are children under age 5; 10% are children between 5 and 9; and 19% are between 10 and 19.

32% are Christians; 19% are Muslims; 15% are non-believers; 13% are Hindus; 12% follow traditional religions; and 6% are Buddhists.

60% are always hungry, including 26% who are severely undernourished; 16% go to bed hungry at least some of the time; only 24% always have enough to eat.

75% have access to safe water in or near their homes.

68% breathe clean air.

60% have access to adequate sanitation.

60% are always hungry.

24% do not have electricity.

17% of the population old enough to read and write is illiterate.

The per capita annual income for the richest 20% of the population is more than \$9000.

The poorest 20% each have less than \$1 a day.

How Fast is the Village Growing

If the total population of the village in the year 2000 equals 100 people, then

In 1000 BC there was only 1 person.

In 500 BC there were 2 people.

In 1 AD there were 3 people.

In 1000 AD there were 5 people.

In 1500 AD there were 8 people.

In 1800 AD there were 17 people.

In 1900 AD there were 32 people.

In 2000 AD there were 100 people.

In 2050 AD there will be nearly 200 people.