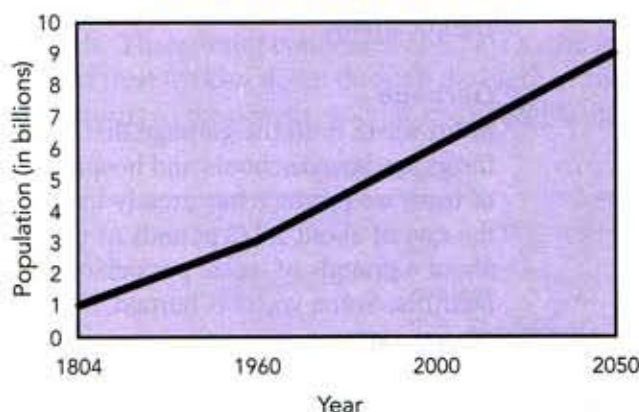


HUMAN POPULATION GROWTH



Environmental Problems

At the time of the Roman Empire, there were only about 250 million people living on Earth. Now there are that many just in the United States. The world population is over 6 billion.

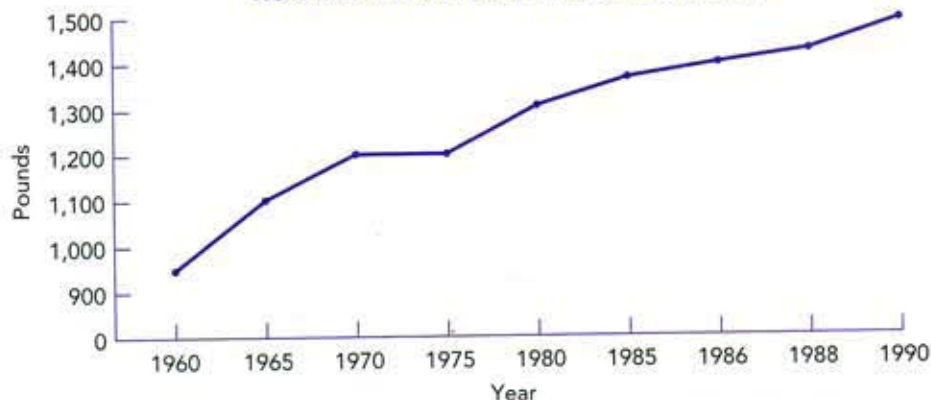
Notice that between 1804 and 1960, a period of nearly 150 years, the world population tripled. Between 1960 and 2050, a period of only 90 years, the world population is expected to more than triple. Unless the growth rate slows, the population may triple again by 2060!

In times past, war, famine, or disease killed people at an early age. Many children died young. The death rate was high, and the birthrate was low. Now health care, improved nutrition, and a more peaceful environment have slowed the death rate and increased the birthrate. The result has been an enormous increase in population.

Garbage

Solid waste is all the garbage that comes from homes, businesses, mines, farms, and even schools and hospitals. The chart below shows that the amount of trash we produce has greatly increased. In the 1960s, we produced trash at the rate of about 2 1/2 pounds of trash per person each day. Now we produce about 4 pounds of waste per person per day. Most of that waste ends up in landfills. Some waste is burned. More and more waste is now recycled into other products.

HOW MUCH TRASH DO WE MAKE EACH YEAR?



Each year, we make more and more trash. Trash production in the United States has nearly doubled since 1960, from 2.66 pounds per person per day to 4 pounds.