THE POWER OF THE PYRAMIDS

1. Look up the country assigned to you. (**Before** you come to class find out where your country is located.)

2. Log onto the Internet and go to www.census.gov

Go to: People
            International
            World Population Information
            International Data Base
            Summary of Demographic Data

3. What is the estimate of the population of the world today? _____

Countries are: (Here are only a few suggestions. You can choose another country.)

Afghanistan	Austria	Bangladesh	Botswana	Brazil
Cameroon	Congo (Brazzaville)	Denmark	Ethiopia	El Salvador
France	Japan	Ghana	Mexico	Nigeria
Qatar	Senegal	Saudi Arabia	China	South Africa
Zimbabwe				

My country is _____ and it is located (be specific)_____

_____

Answer the following questions for your country:

What is the CBR?		What is the infant mortality rate?	
What is the CBR?		What is the Total Fertility Rate (TFR)?	
What is the CDR?		How has the growth rate changed since 1950?	
What is the rate of natural increase?		What is the growth rate today?	
What is the life expectancy?			

Go to the chart labeled **Midyear Population, by Age and Sex.** Print this data.

Use this data to make an age-sex histogram of your country.

For this you will need:

1. A piece of graph paper (your own or pick up a sheet in class)
2. Colored pencils or markers
3. The data you copied from the Internet

Country = _____				
Age Group	Male - M	%	Female - F	%
0-4				
5-9				
10-14				
15-19				
20-24				
25-29				
30-34				
35-39				
40-44				
45-49				
50-54				
55-59				
60-64				
65-69				
70-74				
75-79				
80-84				
85-90+				
Totals:				
Total Population:				

To construct the country's pyramid, you must first calculate the percentage of the population made up of each gender's age group. You do this by dividing each segment's population by the total population - NOT EACH GENDER. For example, if a country has a **total population** of 263,119,000 and the **population of males ages 0-4** was 10,515,000 then

$$10{,}515{,}000 / 263{,}119{,}000 = 0.04 \text{ (or 4\%)}$$

You must first complete the calculations for each cohort or age group. The numbers should add up to close to 100%. Record these calculated values on the table included in this procedure.

After you have calculated the % Males and % Females, use the graph paper to make an age-sex histogram. Then answer the questions that apply to your country.

Questions:

1. Which gender has the higher population in the youngest age groups on your pyramid?_____
Can you account for this? Explain.

2. Which gender has the higher population in the oldest age group? _____
How can you account for this? Explain.

3. Does your country look like a pyramid? _____

4. What can you tell about your country's growth rate by looking at your histogram?

5. If birth and death rates remain the same, what will your pyramid look like in 25 years?

6. What are some factors that could change the shape of your pyramid?

7. Determine the percentage of the population that has yet to reach childbearing age. _____
What do these numbers say about the prospects for future growth?

8. If your country is not increasing in population growth rate, what are some socio-economic problems that might occur?

9. Can you determine from your graph how many people make up the population of your country? Why or why not?

10. Does your country have a baby boom in it? (a bulge in somewhere in the middle of it) _____ What could account for this?

11. If you had a business and you wanted to capitalize on your information about the population age distribution, what would you sell? And why?

12. What % of your population is above age 65? _____

13. Does your pyramid look like that of the World Population Pyramid? _____

14. From the information graphed on your histogram, briefly discuss whether your country is increasing in population size, decreasing, at or close to ZPG.

15. From your data and histogram, would you place it in the category of developing or developed country or mid- way? _____