Demographics of Modern Germany

Topic: Demographics of Modern Germany

Focus Question: What challenges will Germany have to face in the future with current population trends?

Objective: Students will make inferences about the future of Germany's population by analyzing population pyramids and summarizing current issues within modern Germany in regards to education, immigration, government, and human-environment interaction.

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National Geography Standards:

1. The World in Spatial Terms: How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.
4. Human Systems: The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human population on Earth's surface
18. The Uses of Geography: How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

Suggested Grade Level: High School

Background: This lesson should be taught after the students have studied demographic and population basics as a culminating case study of population within a certain country, and the future implications of population changes within that country.

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials:
- handouts of the *Demographics of Modern Germany*
- cutout exit tickets for each student
- stations papers posted along the classroom walls
- colored pencils

 Procedures:

1. Start with a warm-up question of "What factors do you think would cause the population of a country to grow or shrink over time?" Give students a few minutes to answer the question and then conduct a brainstorming list with your class of all the factors that might cause a population of a country to grow or shrink over time. (Consider things like income levels, migration/immigration, standard of living, political and economic freedoms, war, natural disasters)
2. Then pass out the *Demographics of Modern Germany* handouts to the students.

3. Explain to students that they are going to create two population pyramids of Germany-one modern and one projected, and a bar graph showing ethnic migration in Germany.
4. Model the creation of the 2010 population pyramid for the students by helping them setup the key using different colored pencils and a few of the pyramid bars. Also model the creation of the key and bars of the migration bar graph.
5. Give students time to complete the graphs and monitor their progress.
6. After completing the graphs, explain to students that they will now be doing a gallery walk around the room to four different stations and that they will complete the questions on the back of their handout.
7. Allow students 8-10 minutes to walk around the room and complete the question on their handout.
8. Conduct a classroom discussion with students about some of the issues for each of the following stations (education, immigration, government, human-environment interaction)
   - Which areas do you think are strengths of modern German society?
   - What are some problems within modern German society?
   - In what ways is Germany similar or different from the U.S.?
   - What practices/policies could Americans adopt from German society?
   - What trends do you notice amongst the two population pyramids? Is the population growing, shrinking, staying the same?
   - Based on the population trends, what implications does this have for Germany society in the future in terms of education, immigration, government, and human-environment interaction?

Closure:

9. Pass out the closure tickets and have students complete the questions and turn them in.

Further assignments/assessments:
- Have students write a one page summary of Modern Germany and current/future population trends of the country
- As a class look at other projected country population pyramids and compare them with the German pyramids
- Write a letter to the German government explaining what issues they should focus on in the future based on current population trends

Demographics of Modern Germany

Directions: Create two population pyramids using the information in the population tables. Use the key below for both graphs.

Population

Ages	M	F
80+	4.9	5.9
75-79	1.5	2.0
70-74	2.1	2.5
65-69	2.2	2.3
60-64	2.2	2.2
55-59	2.7	2.7
50-54	3.2	3.0
45-49	3.7	3.5
40-44	3.5	3.4
35-39	2.4	2.5
30-34	2.3	2.2
25-29	2.5	2.5
20-24	2.2	2.2
15-19	2.0	2.0
10-14	2.0	2.0
5-9	1.7	1.7
0-4	1.6	1.6

Population

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75-79	1.5	1.5
70-74	1.7	1.5
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50-54	2.2	2.2
45-49	2.1	2.1
40-44	2.0	2.0
35-39	2.0	2.0
30-34	2.0	2.0
25-29	1.9	1.9
20-24	1.7	1.7
15-19	1.6	1.6
10-14	1.6	1.6
5-9	1.5	1.5
0-4	1.5	1.5

German Population: 2010

M   80+   F
75-79
70-74
65-69
60-64
55-59
50-54
45-49
40-44
35-39
30-34
25-29
20-24
15-19
10-14
5-9
0-4

4   2   0   2   4

Population in millions

German Projected Population: 2050

M   80+   F
75-79
70-74
65-69
60-64
55-59
50-54
45-49
40-44
35-39
30-34
25-29
20-24
15-19
10-14
5-9
0-4

6   3   0   3   6

Population in millions
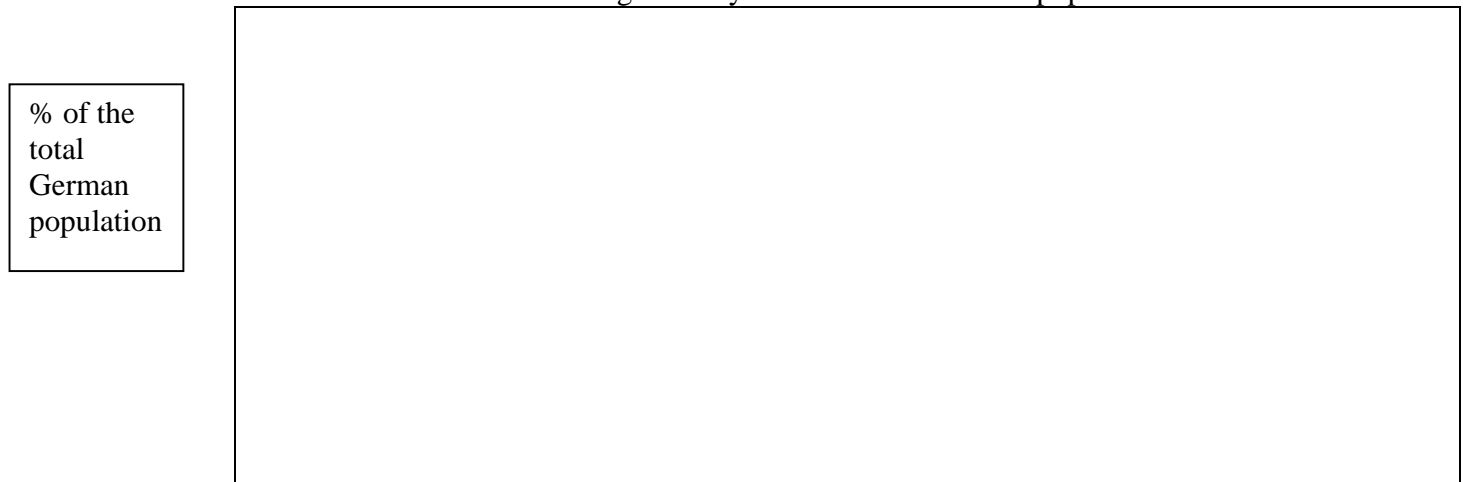
Key
Male
Female

Directions: In the following space below, create a bar graph representing the current migration patterns to Germany using the chart. Be sure to fill in the key using different colors for each bar.

2010 Ethnic group migration to German by % of the total population

Turkish	Russian	Polish	Italian	Greek
14.2%	9.4%	6.9%	4.2%	2%

Key
Turkish
Russian
Polish
Italian
Greek

Ethnic Migration by % of the total German population

% of the total German population

Russian   Turkish   Polish   Italian   Greek

Ethnic groups

Modern Germany Visual Gallery Walk Stations

Directions: Take a few minutes to do a gallery walk around the classroom to answer the following questions for each station.

Station 1: Education

List three facts about education in Germany:
What problems/challenges does Germany have in terms of education?
How is education in Germany similar to education in the United States?

Station 2: Immigration

List three facts about immigration in Germany:
What problems/challenges does Germany have when it comes to immigration issues?
How are issues dealing with immigration in Germany similar to immigration issues in the United States?

Station 3: Government

List three facts about government in Germany:
What problems/challenges does Germany have in terms of government/politics?
How is government in Germany similar to government in the United States?

Station 4: Human-Environment Interaction

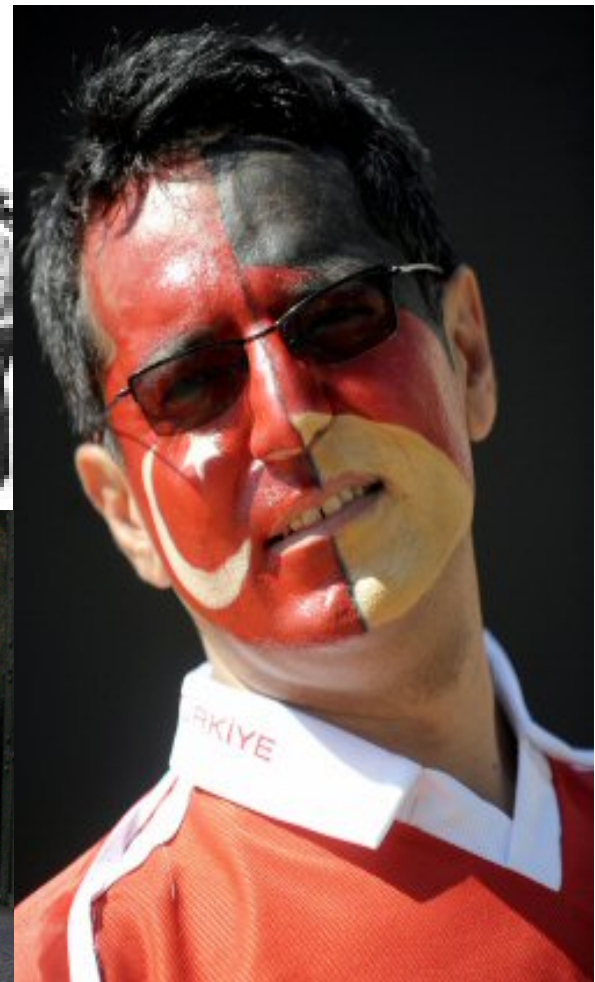| List three facts about environmental concerns/conservation efforts in Germany |
| --- |
| |
| What problems/challenges does Germany have in terms of the environmental concerns? |
| |
| How are Germany's conservation efforts similar to the efforts in the United States? |
| |

Station 1
Education

- After elementary school, students in Germany attend one of three different types of schools: Gymnasium, Real Schule, or a Haupeschule
- **Gymnasium:** A college bound nine year secondary school where students take all academic subject material
- **Real Schule:** a six-year preparatory school for higher business and technical schools or civil service
- **Haupeschule:** five-year secondary school preparing students for vocational school, apprenticeship in trade, or the lower levels of public service.
- Teachers in Germany are often well paid- only 2nd in Europe after Switzerland
- No central administration for education within Germany; each department of education is regulated by German States
- University tuition is relatively affordable: the idea being equal access to all for education

Station 2
Immigration

- In the 1950s/1960s the German government recruited millions of migrant workers for various jobs mainly from Southern and Eastern European countries
- In the early 1970s, the recruitment stopped, but many migrants stayed within Germany
- Early 1980s, asylum seeking immigrants becoming coming to Germany for racial, religious, and political freedoms
- Since this time period Germany has slowly changed a country with little historical immigration to large immigrant populations
- Turkish migrants make up the largest group of immigrants within Germany
- Often immigrant families have trouble being integrated within German society

Station 3
Government

- Germany splits power between the European Union and its two national legislative bodies known as the Bundestag and the Bundesrat
- About 70% of all legal acts originate in the EU and 30% within Germany
- Germany has a multi party system with two of the major political parties being the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the Christian Democratic Union (CDU)
- Civic education within Germany focuses on youth education and working to prevent prejudices
- The German government has many challenges to including equivalent living arrangements within the poor and rich states of Germany

Station 4
Human-Environment Interaction

- Germany is the leader in the world for solar and wind power with the highest amounts of wind turbines and solar panels per capita
- Nearly 14% of Germany's electricity is generated by renewable energy sources
- 85% of Germany's land is forested or farmed; this is maintained by strict environmental protection laws passed
- German government provides incentives for companies who use alternative energy sources
- Germans recycle 60% of waste products versus 32% recycled in the United States

Closure Questions: Ticket out the door

1. What major differences/trends do you notice among the German population in 2010 compared with the projected population in 2050?_____

_____

_____2

. Which group of immigrants make up the largest portion of the German population?_____ 3. Based on your answers to the stations and your demographic graphs, what future problems should the German government focus on? Explain._____

_____

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