

# Overpopulation – The Human Explosion Explained

## Video by Kurzgesagt

### VOCABULARY

- **To skyrocket:** to rise extremely quickly or make extremely quick progress towards success.  
Ex. *Lipstick sales in South Korea have **skyrocketed** this year.*
- **Fourfold:** four times as big or as much.  
Ex. *According to recent figures, 34000 people are infected, and the most aggressive form of the virus, HIV 1, which was unknown in the country until the 1990s, has increased **fourfold** in the past 13 years.*
- **Slums:** a poor and crowded area of a city where the buildings are in bad condition.



- **Pollution:** the process of making air, water, soil etc dangerously dirty and not suitable for people to use, or the state of being dangerously dirty.



- **To sustain:** to provide what is needed for (something or someone) in order to live, to exist, to continue, etc.  
Ex. *She wasn't capable of sustaining close relationships with men.*
- **Ungrounded:** not based on facts.  
Ex. *The socioeconomic exclusion of women, based on ungrounded discriminatory social definitions of female and male roles, affects not only women and their human rights but also the development of sustainable economies and the protection of the natural environment.*
- **Unprecedented:** never having happened before, or never having happened so much.  
Ex. *We are confronted by an unprecedented situation.*
- **To overrun:** to enter quickly and be present in (a place) in large numbers and unwanted.  
Ex. *The enemies overran the city last night.*



- **Worse off:** having less money or being in a more difficult situation.  
Ex. *The rent increases will leave us worse off.*
- **Sanitation:** the systems for taking dirty water and other waste products away from buildings in order to protect people's health.  
Ex. *A lack of clean water and sanitation were the main problems.*
- **Goods:** things that are produced to be sold.
- **Widely:** to a large degree; a lot; by a large number of people; in or to many places.  
Ex. *Taking notes while listening to a lecture is an important strategy that students use widely for increasing attention and retaining content.*
- **Flourished:** to grow or develop well.  
Ex. *The Etruscans had flourished from the seventh to the first century B.C..*
- **Emancipation:** the process of giving people social or political freedom and rights.  
Ex. *Religious fundamentalisms have had a tremendous negative influence on the processes of women's emancipation.*

- **Supply:** the amount of something that is available to be used.  
Ex. *We have a good and lasting **supply** of fresh water.*
- **To lead:** to show someone where to go, usually by taking them to a place; to be in control of a group, country, or situation.  
Ex. *Simplicity can **lead** to greatness and the concentration of one's powers.*
- **To drop:** if a level or amount drops, it becomes less.  
Ex. *Temperatures will **drop** tomorrow after another scorching day.*
- **Spike:** a sudden, rapid increase in something.  
Ex. *Public Health officials in the region warned schools about a **spike** in flu viruses.*
- **To overlook:** to see something wrong or bad but decide to ignore it.  
Ex. *I don't want **to overlook** any opportunity.*
- **To catch up:** to do something that should have been done before.  
Ex. *New Member States will have a unique possibility **to catch up** really fast and sometimes to avoid some of our previous mistakes.*
- **From scratch:** from a point at which nothing has been done yet.  
Ex. *Actually, maybe we should start again **from scratch**.*

## Listening comprehension

**Answer the following questions:**

- 1) How many people were living on Earth in 1940?**
- 2) When was the legend of overpopulation born?**
- 3) What is the demographic transition?**
- 4) When did the first stage of the demographic transition occur? What happened in this century?**
- 5) What were the main features of the industrial revolution?**
- 6) What were the main features of the second stage of the demographic transitions?**
- 7) What about the third stage?**
- 8) What is the average of children per family today?**
- 9) How many years did it take developed countries to reduce fertility from more than 6 children to less than 3? What about Bangladesh?**

## Listening comprehension - answers

**Answer the following questions:**

**1) How many people were living on Earth in 1940?**

2.3 billion people.

**2) When was the legend of overpopulation born?**

It was born in the 1960s.

**3) What is the demographic transition?**

It is a four step process the whole world is going through.

**4) When did the first stage of the demographic transition occur? What happened in this century?**

It occurred in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Many births and many deaths due to bad living conditions (poor sanitation, poor diets, and poor medicine), the population hardly grew.

**5) What were the main features of the industrial revolution?**

- People went from being peasants to worker;
- Manufactured goods were mass-produced and became widely available;
- The sciences flourished and advanced transportation, communication, and medicine;
- The role of women in society shifted, creating the conditions for their emancipation;
- It created a middle class;
- It raised the standards of living and health care for the poor working population.

**6) What were the main features of the second stage of the demographic transitions?**

Better food supplies, hygiene, and medicine, fewer deaths at a young age, resulting in a population explosion.

**7) What about the third stage?**

Fewer people were dying and fewer people were born. The population growth came to an end.

**8) What is the average of children per family today?**

It is 2.5.

**9) How many years did it take developed countries to reduce fertility from more than 6 children to less than 3? What about Bangladesh?**

It took them 80 years. It took Bangladesh 20 years.