

HUMAN POPULATIONS FLOURISH

- There are over 6 billion people on the planet.
- They are unevenly distributed (see Fig. 1 on pg. 698)

A Brief History of Human Population Growth

- Humans became successful at hunting about 100 000 years ago.
- At about 12 000 years ago humans populated all major landmasses except the Antarctica.
- The population at that time was probably 5 million.
- Being a hunter-gatherer made it difficult for the population to increase since they had a nomadic lifestyle.

Seeds and Breeds of Change

- Wheat and oats were first cultivated about 10 500 years ago.
- Rice became domesticated in China about 9 500 years ago.
- corn was cultivated in Mesoamerica (Central America)
- Domestication of sheep, goats and pigs occurred in 10 000 years ago, cattle 8 000 years ago, and horse 6 000 years ago.
- Adopting agriculture practices affected human population because it made them stationary.
- It was now possible to have large families, and individuals were able to become specialized in the workplace (artisans, scholars, and merchants).
- There is an uneven distribution of wild plants and animals and not all species can be domesticated.
- The distribution of these species determined which human populations had an opportunity to switch to agricultural practices and the advantages of that lifestyle

The Impact of Disease

- Epidemic diseases spread rapidly through large populations and occur where population densities are high.
- Some diseases originated in domestic animals then evolved into those that could infect humans.
- Populations that were continuously exposed to diseases were able to develop some resistance to them.
- Even with all the deaths from diseases, the population reached 500 million in 1650.

The Impact of Science and Medicine

- Modern medicine developed in the 1600's due to the cell and germ theories.
- The Industrial Revolution allowed for the mass production of industrial and consumer goods.
- The creation of fertilizers increased food production.
- The steam engine and combustion engine led us into the modern world.
- The population became more urbanized, and the death rates dropped with improved water quality, and the use of vaccines.
- This led to the human population explosion, doubling every 50 years (see Table 5 on pg. 703)

Seatwork Pg. 704 #1 - 8