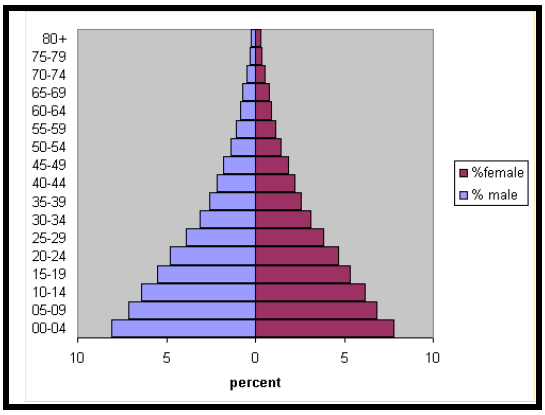
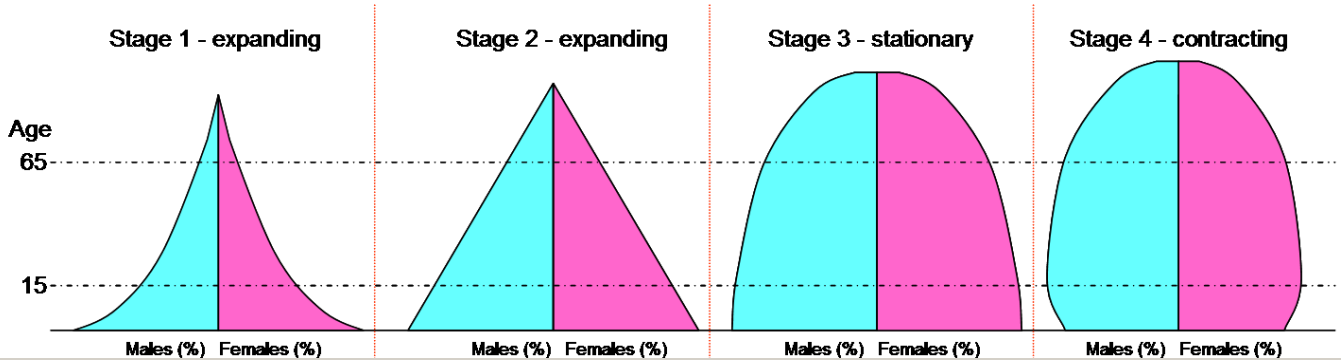
Population Pyramids

Population pyramids, or age-sex diagrams, are:

- actually two back-to-back bar graphs, one showing the number of males and one showing females
- the length of each bar represents the size of the population in a particular five-year age groups (also called a cohort)
- males are conventionally shown on the left and females on the right
- population may be measured by raw number or as a percentage of the total population.

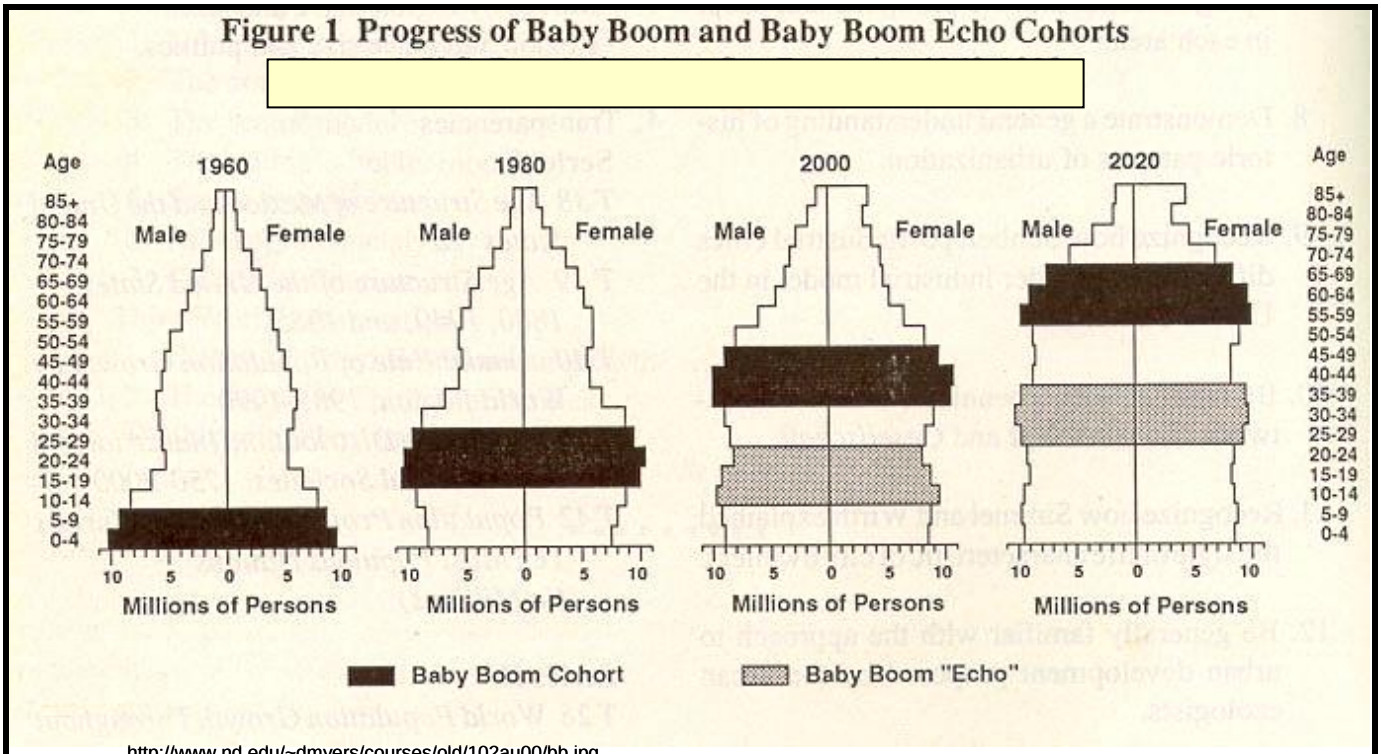




Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Expansive.	Expansive.	Stationary.	Contractive.
Concave sides.	Straight sides.	Convex sides.	Convex sides.
High birth rate.	Still high birth rate.	Declining birth rate.	Low birth rate.
High death rate.	Falling death rate.	Low death rate.	Low death rate.
Short life expectancy.	Slightly longer life expectancy.	Long life expectancy.	Longer life expeactancy.
Rapid fall in each upward age group due to high DR.	Fall in DR so more people living into middle age.	An increasing proportion of the population is in the 65+ age group.	Higher dependency ratio.
Kenya	**India**	**Argentina**	**Sweden**

Economic development increases >>>>

After WWII there was a surge in the birth rates of most western countries. This was called the baby boom. The baby boom can be tracked though population pyramids of different time periods.



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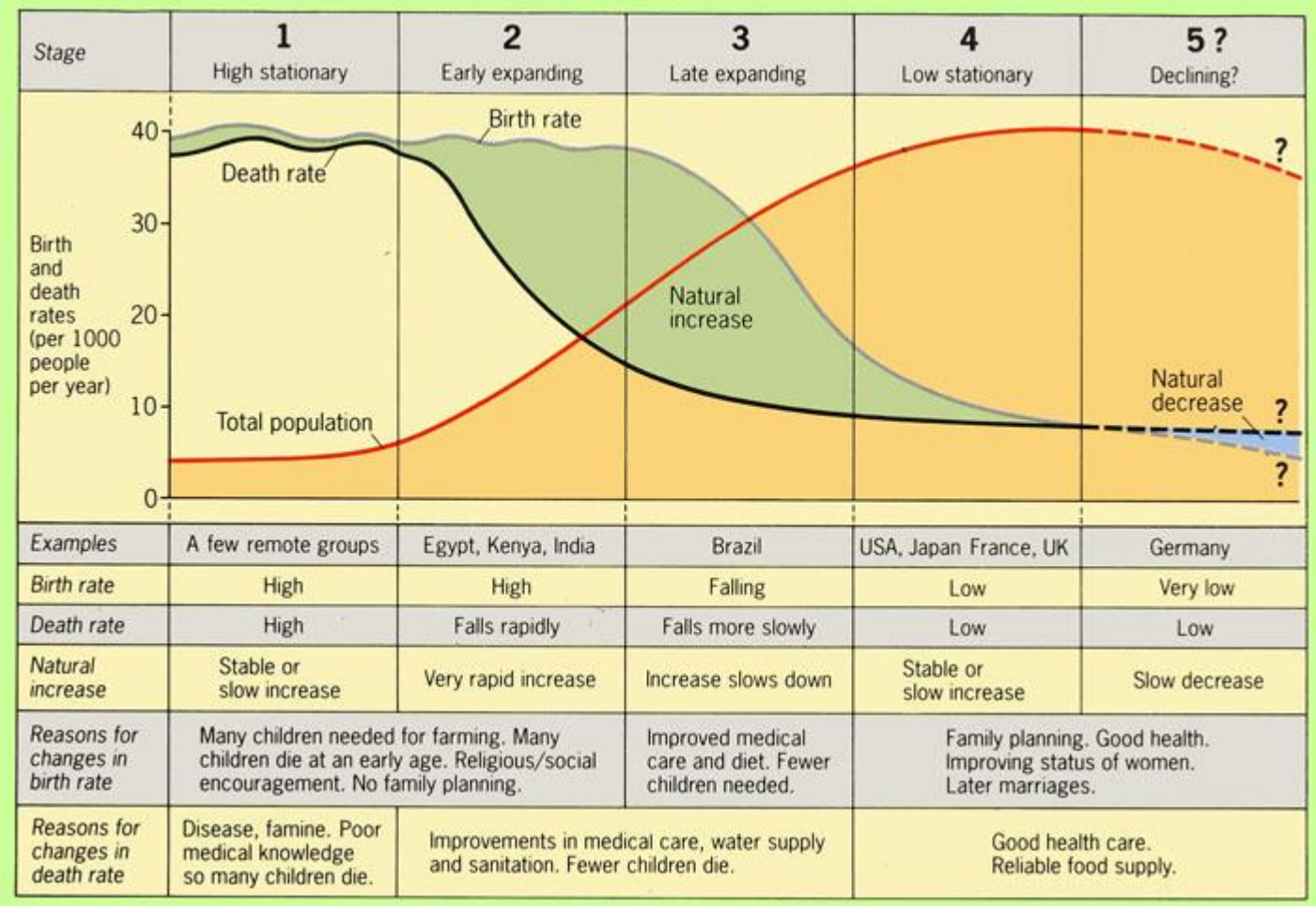
Demographic Transition Model



Stage	1 High stationary	2 Early expanding	3 Late expanding	4 Low stationary	5 ? Declining?
Examples	A few remote groups	Egypt, Kenya, India	Brazil	USA, Japan France, UK	Germany
Birth rate	High	High	Falling	Low	Very low
Death rate	High	Falls rapidly	Falls more slowly	Low	Low
Natural increase	Stable or slow increase	Very rapid increase	Increase slows down	Stable or slow increase	Slow decrease
Reasons for changes in birth rate	Many children needed for farming. Many children die at an early age. Religious/social encouragement. No family planning.		Improved medical care and diet. Fewer children needed.	Family planning. Good health. Improving status of women. Later marriages.	
Reasons for changes in death rate	Disease, famine. Poor medical knowledge so many children die.	Improvements in medical care, water supply and sanitation. Fewer children die.		Good health care. Reliable food supply.	