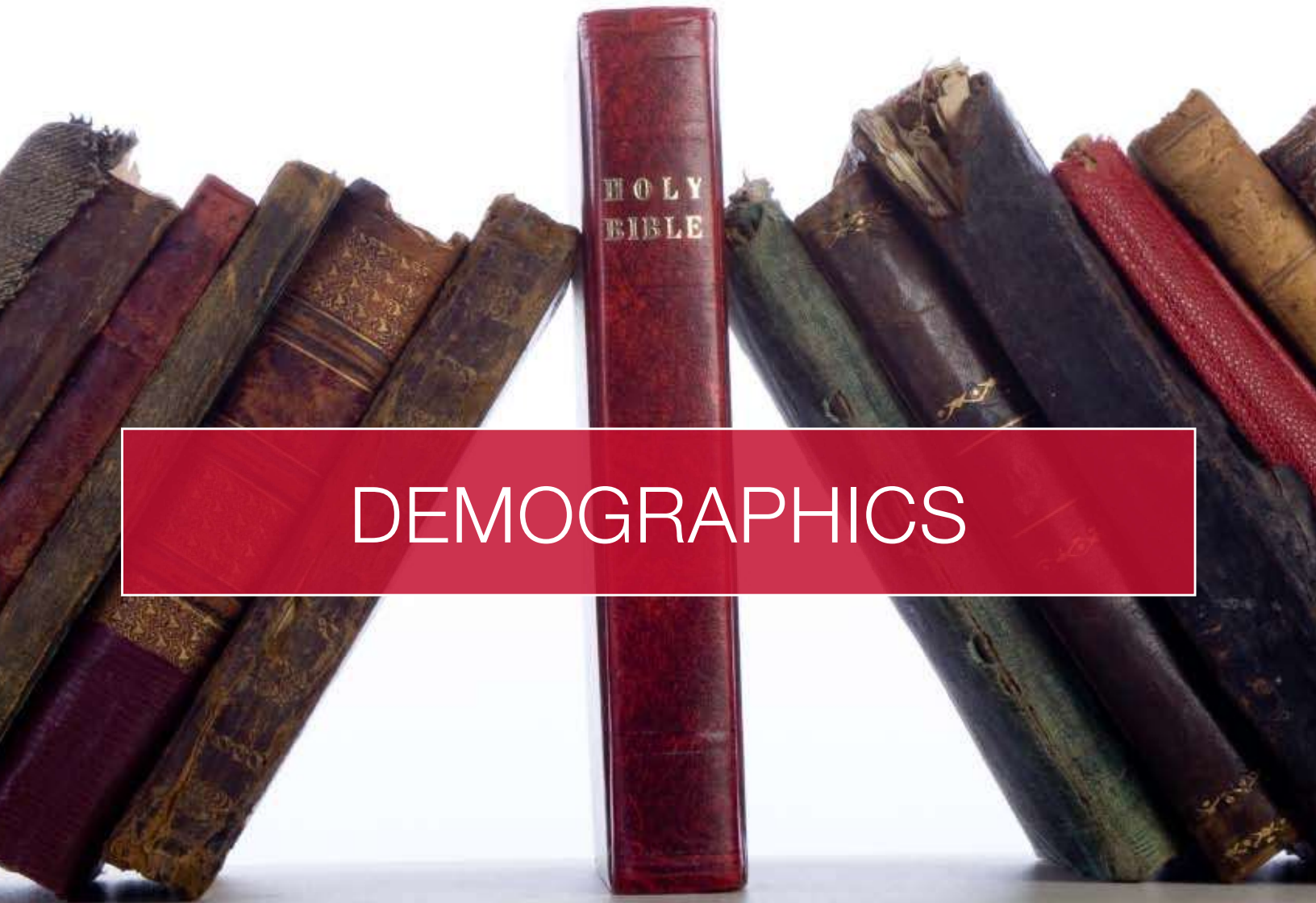


PARENT / TEACHER LESSON PLANS



# DEMOGRAPHICS



# Demographics

## Summary

This lesson encourages students to consider how Canadian demographics have changed in the last century and how that change has impacted the fabric of Canadian society. Students write a more balanced newspaper article to display their learning. Extension activities include writing letters to the editor.

## Essential Question

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*How is my family connected to the future of Canada?*

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This essential question is designed to force students to confront an incongruity. Declining family sizes, an aging population, and a reliance upon immigration for population growth present a challenge for this generation. This question is designed to stimulate on-going thought about its answers and the learning goals of this lesson are designed to help them begin to answer it.

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## Engaging with a newspaper article and a magazine article

- Distribute *Handout 1 Without immigration, Canada's growth could be close to zero in 20 years if low fertility rates persist: StatsCan*. Read the newspaper article with the students while completing the organizer *Handout 3 analysing a news article*.
- Decide on a variety of editing marks to highlight important pieces of information like the main point of the article, sources of information, evidence that is cited, conclusions that are reached, the 5 Ws (who, what, where, when, why, how)
- Anticipate having to define terms such as:
  - *Fertility rate*
  - *Replacement level*
  - *Opportunity cost*
- Discuss how the author explores the main idea and builds support for it.
- Distribute copies of the Reformed Perspective magazine article *Handout 4 Family Planning: on a big scale* to students.
- Students should read *Handout 4* and complete the news article analysis activity in *Handout 3* independently.
- When both articles have been analysed, use *Handout 2 Comparing two news articles*, in small groups of 2-4 students. Compare the reasons offered by both article for Canada's declining population trend.

## Exploring what the Bible has to say

- For additional perspective, display several Bible texts related to children and family and the topic of parental responsibility.
  - Genesis 1:28
  - Psalm 127: 3-5
  - Psalm 128: 1-4
  - Genesis 30:1,23
- Nave's Topical Study Bible has dozens of other texts related to children but all have a central theme that illustrate that the blessing of children is a gift of God.

## Consequences of a falling birth rate

- Lead a discussion on various consequences of a failing birth rate
  - International consequences
  - Canadian consequences
  - Consequences in the church

Teachers can get a backgrounder on various consequences and approaches by reading the "Canada's Shrinking Families" article from IMFC. This article is included as *Handout 5*, and you may determine how you would like to incorporate it into this lesson.

## Task

- Have students write a more fair-minded and balanced newspaper account that includes
  - A variety of perspectives from both sides of the issue.
  - A variety of sources of information that lend credibility and authenticity to the claims.
  - Relevant quotes from sources of information.
- This revised newspaper account should come back to the Essential Question of this lesson and address how the student's family (past family, present family, and their own future family) is connected to the future of Canada.

## Extension

- ARPA's mission is to educate, equip, and encourage Reformed Christians to political action and to bring a biblical perspective to our civil authorities. This extension activity is suggested to help you move from educating, equipping, and encouraging your students to getting them involved in political action.
- Consider having students write individual letters to the editor or complete this as a class.
- ARPAs EasyMail system ([www.arpacanada.ca](http://www.arpacanada.ca)) provides a very user-friendly method to send letters or to obtain ideas for writing letters.