**POPULATION PYRAMIDS**

Population pyramids show the age and gender structure of a population. They can be used to predict what will happen in the future and predict what services may be needed.

**How to draw a population pyramid:**

1. Draw a horizontal axis and add the scale. Remember to start in the middle with your scale and represent the males on the left and the females on the right.

Males

Females

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1. Draw two lines in the centre of the graph as your vertical axis. Label the age groups starting with 0-4 years and then increasing in 5 year age groups up the graph.

**Vertical axis**

Age

(Yrs)

30-34

**Horizontal Axis**

25-29

20-24

15-19

**Age groups**

10-14

5-9

0-4

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Scale**

POPULATION (%)

1. Using the data plot the bars with data for males on the left and data for females on the right. Don’t forget to label your graph!

**Task:** Using the data from the table below: **(Use grid paper)**

1. Graph the data on a population pyramid; use a RED pen to graph the data for males and a BLUE pen to graph the data for females.
2. Which age group is likely to be the largest in 2051?
3. What facilities will they need?
4. What implications do you think the data would have for the nature of Australian society?
5. Which age group will you belong to? How do you think you will be contributing to society?

***Note:*** *Select an appropriate scale for your graph! Consider whether the data is on percentage (%) or real figures(e.g. ‘000s)*

Australia’s projected population 2051

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Age** | **Females %** | **Males %** |
| 85+ | 2.92 | 1.63 |
| 80-84 | 2.15 | 1.71 |
| 75-79 | 2.52 | 2.24 |
| 70-74 | 2.65 | 2.53 |
| 65-69 | 2.92 | 2.89 |
| 60-64 | 3.05 | 3.07 |
| 55-59 | 3.12 | 3.16 |
| 50-54 | 3.07 | 3.13 |
| 45-49 | 3.05 | 3.11 |
| 40-44 | 3.02 | 3.08 |
| 35-39 | 3.00 | 3.07 |
| 30-34 | 2.98 | 3.07 |
| 25-29 | 2.92 | 3.04 |
| 20-24 | 2.83 | 2.98 |
| 15-19 | 2.66 | 2.81 |
| 10-14 | 2.57 | 2.72 |
| 5-9 | 2.53 | 2.67 |
| 0-4 | 2.50 | 2.64 |
| **Total** | **50.5** | **49.5** |

**POPULATION STRUCTURE**

* Population pyramids are an important tool used in demography.
* Age distribution of the population can be seen at a glance.

A country with a broad, wide base:

* has a very high birth rate
* has very young population
* needs schools, baby health centres, support for families and mothers,

A country with large groups of older people:

* needs retirement homes
* recreational activities for older people
* money to pay old age pensions or alternate polcies to address the social and economic needs of the elderly.

Dependency ratio of a population: refers to the percentage of that population which is over 65 and under 15, combined. These portions of the population are considered to be out of the work force and therefore they must be supported by the rest of the population.

**Different shapes of the population pyramid:**

* 1. Sketch the shape of the following population pyramids
  2. Briefly describe their shapes and how they relate to the different population trends

**An evenly distributed population:**

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**A youthful population:**

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**An ageing population:**

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