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Overpopulation

OVERVIEW

In the year 1 C.E. there were approximately 200 million people on Earth—less than the population of the contemporary United States alone. It took nearly two thousand years for the global population to increase sixfold: In 1850 the world population was an estimated 1.26 billion. The next increase of nearly sixfold has taken only 150 years, less than one-tenth the time of the previous sixfold jump: As of 2008 the world human population was 6.5 billion. This rapidly increasing growth rate of population, with attendant steep increases in consumption of natural resources, threatens the well-being of Earth's current and future inhabitants.

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