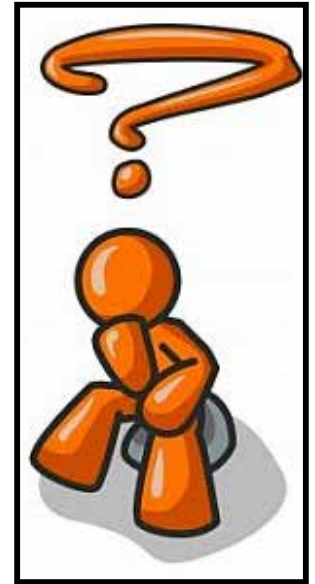# What About...the Population of the Earth?

By Dr. David A. DeWitt

Don Batten discusses the virtual impossibility of the earth's current population, given the evolutionary model.
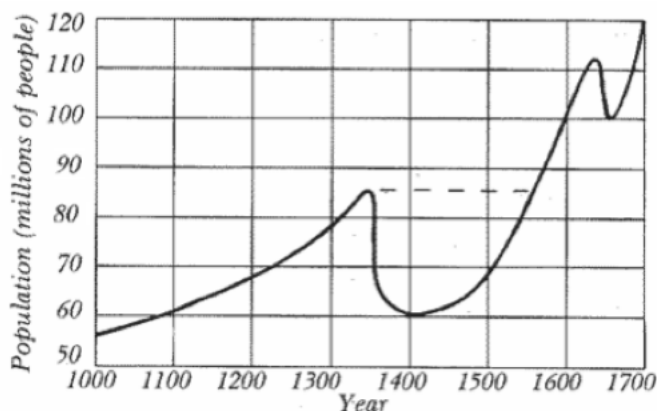
> The current growth rate of the world population is about 1.7% per year… Evolutionists claim that mankind evolved from apes about a million years ago. If the population had grown at just 0.01% per year since then (doubling only every 7,000 years), there could be 10^{43} people today—that's a number with 43 zeros after it… To try to put this number of people in context, say each individual is given 'standing room only' of about one square metre per person. However, the land surface area of the whole Earth is 'only' 1.5×10^{14} square metres. If every one of those square metres were made into a world just like this one, all these worlds put together would still 'only' have a surface area able to fit 10^{28} people in this way. This is only a tiny fraction of 10^{43}. [creation.com/where-are-all-the-people#r10].

The evolutionist answer is that disease, famine, and war kept the numbers down. There are two problems with that.

1) The numbers would have to be so low that mankind would consist of only a handful of people for nearly a million years. The idea that they would not have gone extinct or multiplied is absurd.

2) Lambert Dolphin points out, "…the awful figures for natural disasters are very quickly made up for by the subsequent rates of increase among the survivors." Historically, disease, famine, and war do not change the rate of population growth over time. For example, the graph (Langer 1964) shows the population in Europe following the plagues of 1347. [http://www.ldolphin.org]

Many assume that modernization, which would not exist in the ancient world, accounts for the world's population growth. But the statistics don't bear that out. Third world countries contribute most of the population growth. Actually, it seems the modernization of the sort we have seen in the western world of the last century, slows population growth.

Batten (referenced above) offers this "remarkable coincidence":

> The Jews are descendants of Jacob (also called Israel). The number of Jews in the world in 1930, before the Nazi Holocaust, was estimated at 18 million. This represents a doubling in population, on average, every 156 years, or 0.44% growth per year since Jacob. Since the Flood, the world population has doubled every 155 years, or grown at an average of 0.45% per year. There is agreement between the growth rates for the two populations.

The point is, the Jewish population growth rate seems to be the same as that of the whole world, if we begin with the eight people who got off the ark.

Back in 2006, anthropologists named Rohde, Chang, and Olson chose a range of migration rates and produced a date of about 5,000 B.C. (about the time of the Flood of Noah) "for humanity's most recent common ancestor" [foxnews.com/story/2006/07/05]. I am not suggesting these statistics prove that the Bible's dates are true, but they are reasonable and possible. But the million-year age of man given by evolution is clearly absurd. And, by the way, where are all those Neanderthals (etc.) who supposedly multiplied and supposedly populated the earth for millions of years before "man"?