

This activity is the lesson starter. If used online it is more effective, since pupils can appreciate the movement of the pyramid. To use online you need to download the appropriate software at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/default.asp>

The interactive pyramid is in the bottom right-hand corner of the web page. If you are unable to use online then the following page can be copied as an OHT.

The objective is for pupils to interpret the population pyramids, look for trends and suggest reasons for what they see. Remember that there are no fixed answers. A major part of interpreting data is guesswork.

Reveal the pyramids one by one and ask pupils questions about what they see. These may be useful.

Graph 1

Describe what the graph is showing.

What sort of trends do you see?

Would you expect the pyramids to look like this?

Do you notice anything strange?

Can you think of possible reasons for certain features of the graph? (Note that there appears to be a population boom after the Second World War).

What do you predict the graph will look like in 15 years time? Justify your answer.

Graph 2

Was your prediction correct? Describe what changes have happened in 15 years.

Can you think of reasons for any differences in the graph? Briefly sketch what you think the graph in 2001 looks like.

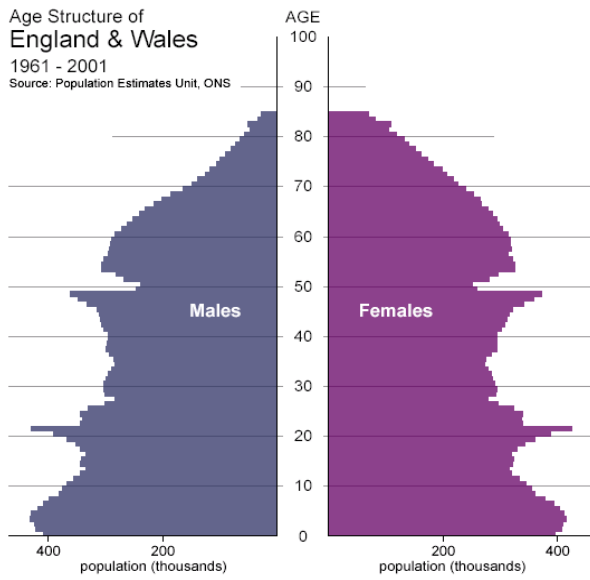
Graph 3

Was your sketch accurate? Discuss the final pyramid. How does it compare to the others?

Notes

Age Structure of
England & Wales
1961 - 2001

Source: Population Estimates Unit, ONS



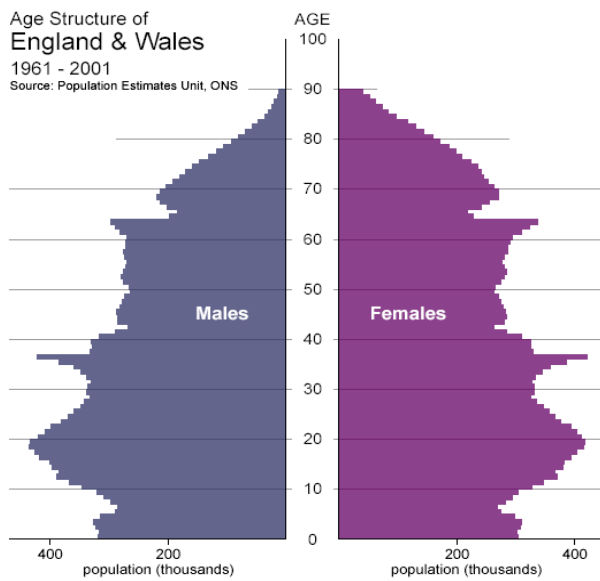
ANIMATE
▶ play
⏸ pause

1968
48.5 million

Start: 1961 ◀ ▶ End: 2001

Age Structure of
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1961 - 2001

Source: Population Estimates Unit, ONS



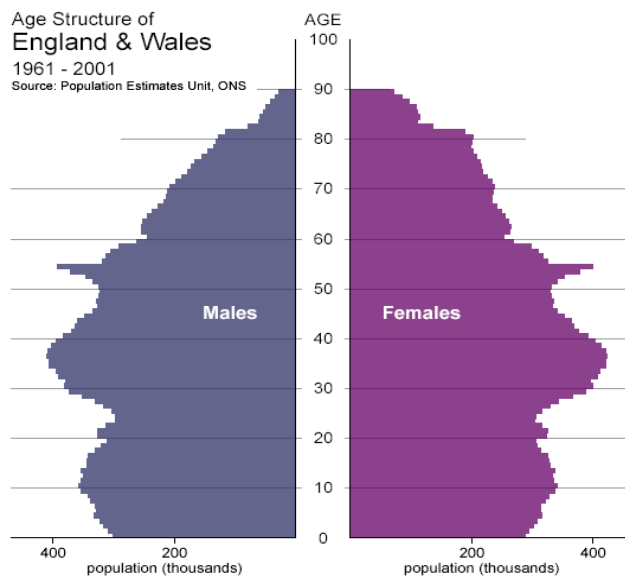
ANIMATE
▶ play
⏸ pause

1983
49.6 million

Start: 1961 ◀ ▶ End: 2001

Age Structure of
England & Wales
1961 - 2001

Source: Population Estimates Unit, ONS



ANIMATE
▶ play
⏸ pause

2001
52.1 million

Start: 1961 ◀ ▶ End: 2001