

LESSON 3: DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

Answer Sheet for Teachers: Activity 3 – The Future of the Family



Find out what the experts have to say about consequences of the current birth rate and the future of our families. Look at the chapter “We are family – aren’t we?” in the app *A Life Journey*. **Answer the following questions:**

Why do you think Europeans have fewer children than before? Can you name factors that have an influence on the declining birth rate?

- Inflexible working conditions
 - Child planning begins even later and later in the life course
- Chapter: We are family – aren’t we?
» Sub-chapter: Children, anyone?

In your opinion, is it important that the fertility rate maintains the replacement level (see glossary)?

- The influence of the replacement level is diminishing as population change is also influenced by migration and changing economic conditions.
- Chapter: We are family – aren’t we?
» Sub-chapter: Interview with Wolfgang Lutz

Which family form, besides a married couple, do you know?

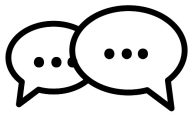
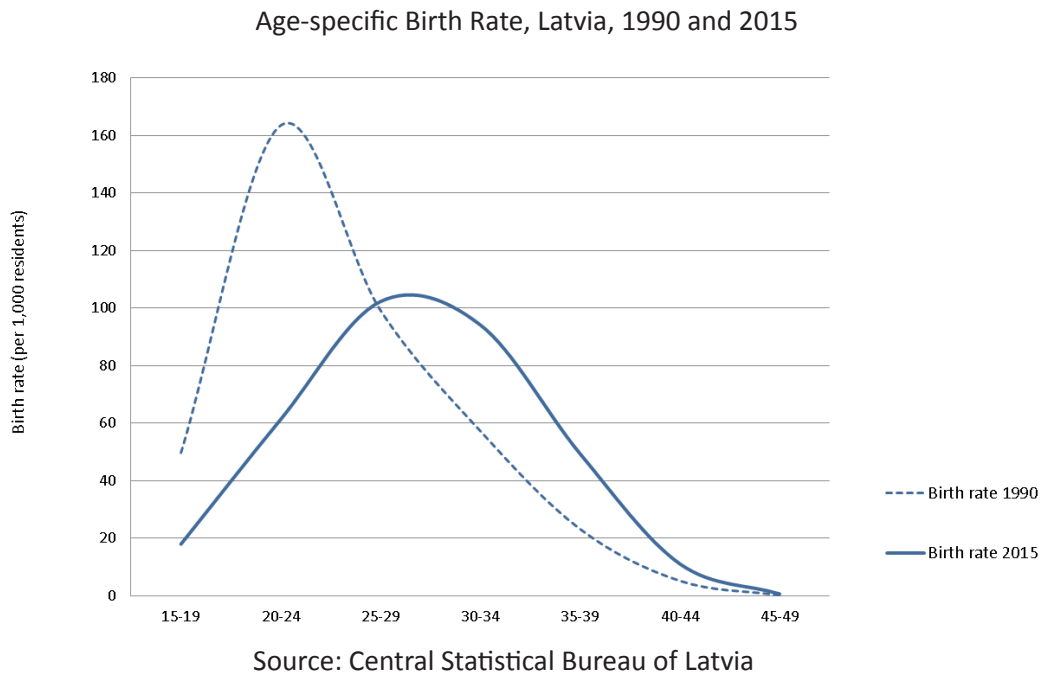
- Example: Patchwork families
- Chapter: We are family – aren’t we?
» Sub-chapter: Divorce and other disturbances

Are singles really always single?

- Many couples are statistically seen as single, even though they just live in separate households.
- Chapter: We are family – aren’t we?
» Sub-chapter: Are singles really single?



The following graph represents the age-specific birth rate in Latvia in the last 25 years. **Explain what happened to the birth rate in 2015 in comparison to 1990.**



In relation to this graphic, discuss the following questions:

Which factors contribute to the average age at which women have children?

- Working conditions, economic stability, etc. (see first task of activity 3)

Opinion Questions:

- Is this phenomenon of a declining birth rate also happening in your country?
- What do you think: Why do women delay having children?
- What do you think is the ideal age to have a child?