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LESSON 3: DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

Overview



50 Minutes

Overarching Goals

The students learn about basic demographic indicators using practical examples and making simple calculations. These indicators are an important tool to measure, analyse and interpret demographic events with regard to birth rates, mortality, migration, etc. The application examples also illustrate possible future problems of our society and possible solutions for them.

Overarching Skills

- Calculate basic demographic indicators
- Observe, analyse, interpret
- Encourage critical thinking
- Develop one's own point of view

Materials

- Answer Sheet for Teachers "Activity 1 – Small Group 1, 2"
- Answer Sheet for Teachers "Activity 3 – The Future of the Family"
- Glossary
- iPads with the App *A Life Journey*
- Overview for Teachers
- Worksheet "Activity 1 – Small Group 1, 2"
- Worksheet "Activity 2 – Calculating Birth Rate"
- Worksheet "Activity 3 – The Future of the Family"



ACTIVITY 1: DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS (🕒 20 MINUTES)

The students should receive two texts: One about infant mortality and one on how to calculate the birth rate. They can work on these texts either individually, in pairs or in small groups to answer the questions and present the results.

Optional: The examples of further important age-specific data (for example, median age, migration rate) can be the basis for a short presentation. The students, either individually or in pairs, take an example, put the key points into context with the help of the glossary and the information they have collected so far, and then briefly summarise the results in his or her own words.



ACTIVITY 2: CALCULATING BIRTH RATE (🕒 10 MINUTES)

The students interpret the data on the basis of questions and calculate the birth rate for the respective age groups. Then, they should create a graph based on the data.

Solution:

Age group	Live births	Female population	Birth rate
15-19	765	45,522	18.0
20-24	3,720	60,594	61.4
25-29	7,196	70,313	102.3
30-34	6,259	66,407	94.3
35-39	3,204	64,791	49.5
40-44	782	70,049	11.2
45-49	47	69,573	0.7
Total	21,973	444,249	49.5

Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia



ACTIVITY 3: WORKING WITH THE APP *A LIFE JOURNEY* (🕒 20 MINUTES)

The students should look at the chapter “We are family – aren’t we?” in the app *A Life Journey* and then answer questions related to the topic, either individually, with a partner or in a group. Following this, they should interpret a graph related to age-specific birth rates in Latvia, analyse the results and discuss the topic-relevant questions.