

Citizen Seven Billion 地球公民破70亿

英语学习点: *Birth and Statistics* 出生和统计数据

It is official: there are now seven billion of us! This week baby Danica had hardly been brought to life in a Manila hospital's delivery room when she was awarded a Symbolic Seven Billionth Person certificate.

But there were claims in Russia and India of other newly-born babies being 'Citizen Seven Billion'.



Who is the seven billionth child?

The UN's population demographer, Gerhard Heilig, accepted that it is impossible to know accurately who carries the honour as the figures come with a 1-2% margin of error. But this is an important milestone.

The UN wanted to draw attention to the speed of population growth as it took less than 13 years for the Earth to welcome a billion more people.

And the organisation published a report that highlights the rise in average life expectancy and the fact that children are much less likely to die in infancy.

But it also mentions the challenges for a species with a high fertility rate living on a planet of limited resources and uneven development conditions. It points out that 200 million women have no access to family planning advice.

"Sex education has an impact in delaying the age at the first sexual intercourse, in increasing the use of contraception methods and condoms," says Gabriela Rivera from the UN's population agency.

Amid articles about population control measures, The Guardian, in Britain, invited its readers to send Danica a message. A comment signed by Faisal Al Mutar said: "Having beaten out around 275 million other little spermatozoa you're already a winner!"

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Why has Danica become famous?
2. Why is it difficult to know who the seven billionth person is?
3. Why has the UN decided to talk about the number of people on Earth now?
4. What expression in the article refers to the first few hours of a baby's life?
5. Is this statement true, false or not given? *Two hundred million women had babies when they didn't want to.*

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. The _____ in some European countries has declined as women tend to have children later in life.

ability rate	fertility rate	interest rate	mortality rate
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2. Health professionals say that the risk of pregnancy is higher with some _____ methods than with others.

perception	introspection	deception	contraception
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3. A thousand people took part in the survey, out of a population of 2.7m. The poll has a reported margin of _____ of plus or minus 4%.

error	mistake	fault	river
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4. The discovery of how to produce fire was a _____ in the development of mankind.

headstone	cornerstone	gallstone	milestone
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5. John went to university to study geography. He planned to be a _____.

demonstrator	decipher	demographer	calligrapher
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Why has Danica become famous? Because she is considered the seven billionth person to live on Earth.
2. Why is it difficult to know who the seven billionth person is? Because the figures carry a 1-2% margin of error.
3. Why has the UN decided to talk about the number of people on Earth now? To point out the implications of a fast growing population.
4. What expression in the article refers to the first few hours of a baby's life? Newly-born.
5. Is this statement true, false or not given? *Two hundred million women had babies when they didn't want to.* It is not given. The article says that 200 million women had no access to family planning advice but it does not mean that they had unwanted babies.

Exercise 练习

1. The fertility rate in some European countries has declined as women tend to have children later in life.
2. Health professionals say that the risk of pregnancy is higher with some contraception methods than with others.
3. A thousand people took part in the survey, out of a population of 2.7m. The poll has a reported margin of error of plus or minus 4%.
4. The discovery of how to produce fire was a milestone in the development of mankind.
5. John went to university to study geography. He planned to be a demographer.

Glossary 词汇表

brought to life 给以生命	delivery room 产房
newly-born 新生儿	demographer 人口统计学家
accurately 准确的	margin of error 误差
to draw attention to 引起注意, 关注	population growth 人口增长
average 平均	in infancy 初期, 婴儿期
resources 资源	fertility rate 受孕率
family planning advice 计划生育咨询	sex education 性教育
sexual intercourse 性交	contraception methods 避孕措施
condoms 避孕套	population control 人口控制