

## Meet Number 7 Billion

### Article

**MANILA, Philippines** (Achieve3000, December 14, 2011). As soon as little Danica May Camacho came into the world, she was a star. Born at the tail end of October 30, 2011, Danica was identified as the world's 7-billionth person.

The United Nations (UN) chose Monday, October 31, to mark the occasion by calling it Seven Billion Day and holding a string of festivities worldwide to recognize a series of symbolic 7-billionth babies being born. Danica, whose name means "morning star," was the first, arriving at José Fabella Memorial Hospital in Manila, Philippines, at two minutes before midnight. Doctors said that was close enough to count as a Monday birthday.

"She looks so lovely," Danica's mother, Camille Galura, whispered as she cradled the 5.5-pound baby, who was born about a month premature.

Danica is the second child of Camille Galura and Florante Camacho, a man who supports the family on the relatively small salary he earns driving a 'jeepney,' a kind of bus that is widespread in the Philippines.

UN officials met with the family members, presenting them with gifts to celebrate the significance of Danica's birth. Danica was given a scholarship grant for her education, while her parents received some money to help them open a store. Local officials made speeches, and photographers took plenty of pictures to record the occasion.

Danica is likely not the world's actual 7-billionth baby. In reality, it is impossible to pinpoint the identity of that person. The celebrations, though, reflected symbolism more than demography. The globe's population is growing quickly, experts say.

Demographers say it took until 1804 for the world to reach its first billion people, and a century more until it hit 2 billion in 1927. The 20<sup>th</sup> century, though, saw things begin to escalate: 3 billion people in 1959, 4 billion in 1974, 5 billion in 1987, and 6 billion in 1998.

Where do most people on Earth live? China is the world's most populous nation, with 1.34 billion people. India, with 1.2 billion people, is expected to overtake China around 2030, when the Indian population reaches an estimated 1.6 billion. The Philippines is 12<sup>th</sup>, with nearly 95 million people.

Some people questioned whether 2011 was really the year when the worldwide population reached 7 billion. There was reason to believe that the figure wouldn't be reached until 2012. Estimating the number of people on Earth is tricky. The population growth rate depends on everything from life expectancy to infant mortality rates.

Regardless, there will be many more people on Earth by the time today's kids reach adulthood. The UN estimates the world's population will reach 8 billion by 2025 and 10 billion by 2083.

*The Associated Press contributed to this story.*



Photo credit: AP

*Danica May Camacho was born at two minutes to midnight on October 30, 2011. She was heralded as the world's 7-billionth person.*

**Dictionary**

**demography** (*noun*) the science of trends in a society, such as the births, deaths, diseases, or marriages of populations

**festivity** (*noun*) a celebration or happy occasion

**populous** (*adjective*) having many people

**premature** (*adjective*) born earlier than normal

**symbolic** (*adjective*) representing something

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## Activity

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### PART 1

#### Question 1

What is this article mainly about?

- (A) When Danica Camacho was born, UN officials met with the parents and presented them with some gifts.
- (B) Demographers say it took until 1804 for the world to reach its first billion people, and a century more until it hit 2 billion.
- (C) Born at the very end of October 30, 2011, Danica Camacho is regarded as the world's 7-billionth person.
- (D) Some people question whether 2011 was really the year when the worldwide population reached 7 billion.

#### Question 2

Based on the article, which is most likely to happen?

- (A) When she's older, Danica Camacho will be upset about the attention that her birth received in 2011.
- (B) When she's older, Danica Camacho will have a chance to become the mother of the world's 10-billionth person.
- (C) When she's older, Danica Camacho will witness the world's population reaching 20 billion people.
- (D) When she's older, Danica Camacho will use some of the money given to her by the UN to help achieve her goals.

#### Question 3

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *symbolic*?

- (A) Exclusive
- (B) Dishonorable
- (C) Representative
- (D) Valiant

#### Question 4

Based on information in the article, which of these happened *second*?

- (A) Danica May Camacho became the symbolic 7-billionth person in the world.
- (B) Camille Galura and Florante Camacho welcomed their first child into the world.
- (C) Local officials made speeches, and photographers took plenty of pictures of a birth in the Philippines.
- (D) United Nations officials presented Danica's family with a scholarship grant for Danica's education.

#### Question 5

Which two words from the article are the closest **synonyms**?

- (A) Billion and million
- (B) Speeches and pictures
- (C) Receive and record
- (D) Festivity and celebration

Question 6

Which of these is **most** important to include in a summary of this article?

- (A) Demographers say it took until 1804 for the world to reach its first billion people, and a century more until it hit 2 billion in 1927.
- (B) Camille Galura and Florante Camacho were presented with gifts after the birth of their second child.
- (C) Danica Camacho, born at the end of October 30, 2011, is regarded as the world's 7-billionth person.
- (D) Danica Camacho's father is a driver who supports his family driving a 'jeepney' in the Philippines.

Question 7

The article states:

**Demographers say it took until 1804 for the world to reach its first billion people, and a century more until it hit 2 billion in 1927. The 20<sup>th</sup> century, though, saw things begin to escalate: 3 billion people in 1959, 4 billion in 1974, 5 billion in 1987, and 6 billion in 1998.**

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) Show that world population numbers need to be measured more precisely
- (B) Suggest that the world's population has already reached its peak
- (C) Highlight the importance of demographers in the world planning process
- (D) Illustrate the rate at which the world's population has been growing

Question 8

The news article says all of the following **except** \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) Danica Camacho will be honored by the UN each year on October 31, 2011.
- (B) Danica Camacho was actually born at the very end of October 30, 2011.
- (C) Danica Camacho received gifts from representatives from the United Nations.
- (D) Danica Camacho was recognized as the symbolic 7-billionth person in the world.