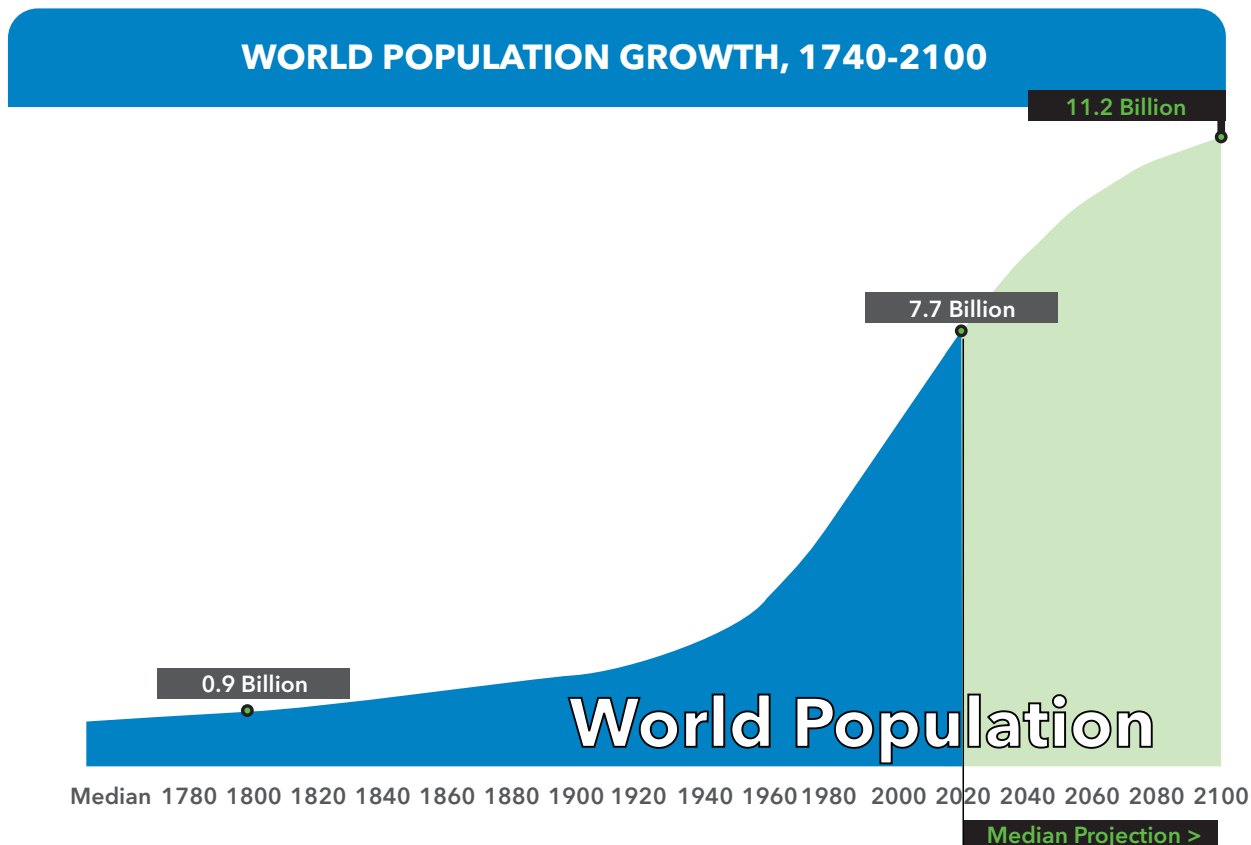


# GRAPH ACTIVITIES

Imagine life for people in 30 years. What will the global population be? How will that impact their lives?

## J-Curve Talking Points:

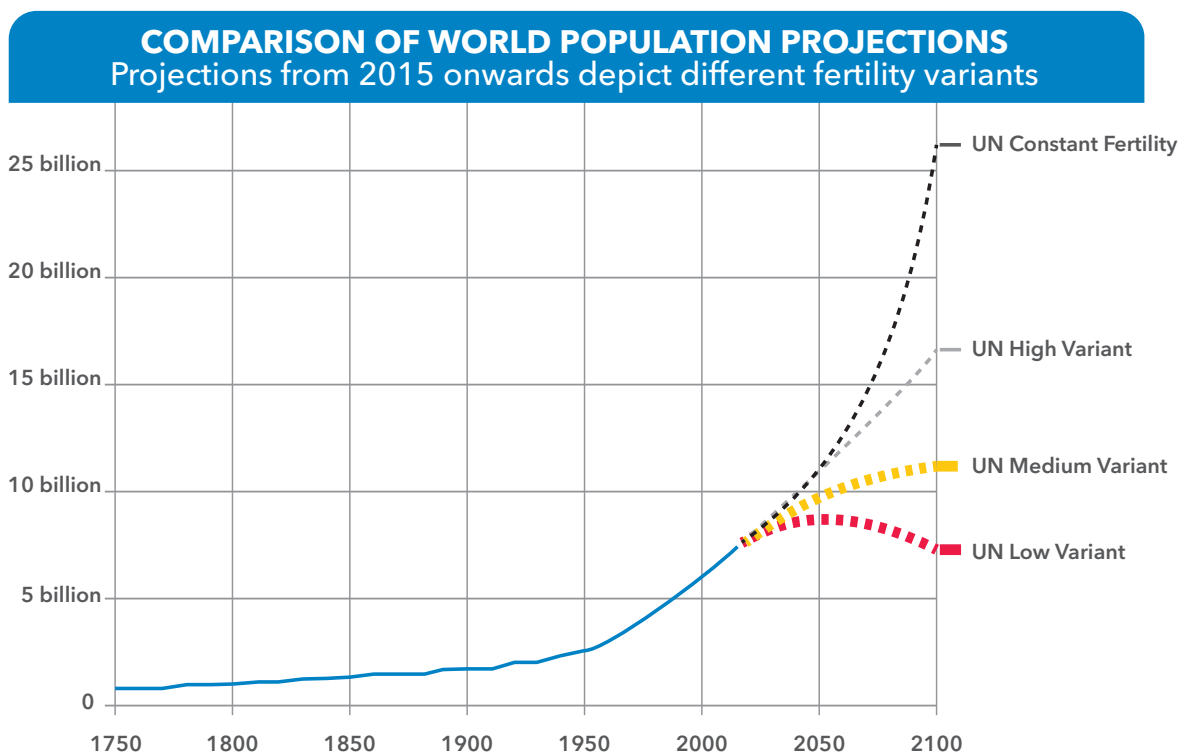
- The graph below shows the growth of the human population from 1740 CE to 2100 CE.
- When Population Connection was founded in 1968, as Zero Population Growth (ZPG), there were 3.5 billion people on the planet. Since then, world population has more than doubled.
- The good news is that the rate of population growth has slowed, from 2.1% a year to 1.1%, and the total fertility rate has halved, from 5 children per woman to 2.5.
- The world's population grows by over 80 million people each year. That's like adding a city the size of Philadelphia or Phoenix every week.
- The world now adds 1 billion people every 12 years. This is the shortest period of time in human history for a billion people to be added.



## Population Projection Talking Points:

Point to where we are now on the graph (where the blue line ends)

- Future population growth is highly dependent on the path that future fertility will take.
- Relatively small changes in fertility behavior, when projected over decades, can generate large differences in total population.
- In other words, the work we do now has major implications for the quality of life for everyone in the future!
- The medium-fertility variant, shown in yellow, is the UN's most commonly cited population projection. This outcome is dependent upon continued fertility decline in all countries with fertility currently above replacement rate. The constant-fertility variant shows us what will happen if fertility rates remain the same as they are today—a frightening prospect.
- Check out the low-fertility variant, shown in red. If every country's fertility rate were half a child per woman below the median projection, it would mean global population would peak before 2050 and then begin to decline.
- The policies we enact now can and will influence these projections!



### Facts:

- There would be 22 million fewer births each year if all countries immediately moved from today's fertility rates to replacement-level fertility (2.1 births per woman).
- Demographers project that world population will reach 8 billion between 2022 and 2025.
  - See above, in which all variants have us reaching 8 billion before 2025.
  - The best and most effective way of lowering fertility within a human rights framework is to empower women to make their own reproductive choices.