

**READ THE GLOSSARY** Pay attention to the important features on the page.

### African Instrument Glossary



**Mbila:** (m-BIL-uh) A wooden xylophone played by striking planks with a rubber mallet. Shells mounted under the wooden boards amplify the sounds. These instruments can be several feet long and can be played by two or more musicians at one time. (Origin: Mozambique)



**Mbira:** (m-BIR-uh) A hand-held piano with 22 to 28 metal keys attached to a wooden board that amplifies the sounds made by plucking the keys with the thumbs. Modern mbiras often use recycled materials for the keys, such as furniture springs or bicycle spokes. Bottle caps, shells, or other objects are attached to the wooden board. They create a buzz that adds depth to the sound and increases volume. (Origin: Eastern and Southern Africa)



**Shekere:** (shay-KUH-ray) A percussion instrument made out of a dried gourd covered with a beaded net. Most shekerei are held in two hands. Players shake, twist, drop, or slap the instrument to create rhythmic sounds. (Origin: Nigeria)



**Talking Drum:** A two-headed drum that is shaped like an hourglass and can produce a wide variety of pitches. The drum's heads are made of goat, lizard, or fish skin that is stretched over wooden hoops. The two heads are connected by leather cords. Holding the drum under one arm, the player squeezes the cords to change the drum's pitch. Notes are played by striking the heads with a special stick. The instrument is called a talking drum because it can be used to reproduce the sounds of spoken language. (Origin: Nigeria and Ghana)

**SKILL PRACTICE** Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- What is one similarity between a mbila and a mbira?
  - They are both held in one hand.
  - They are both types of xylophones.
  - They both include wooden parts.
  - They both originated in Mozambique.
- Which instrument uses beads hitting a dried gourd to create sounds?
  - mbila
  - mbira
  - shekere
  - talking drum
- How does a musician hold a talking drum?
  - under one arm
  - in one hand
  - in both hands
  - between both legs
- What information is *not* included in each entry?
  - when the instrument was invented
  - materials the instrument is made from
  - how the instrument is played
  - where the instrument was first used

**STRATEGY PRACTICE** How is the first sentence in each glossary entry important?

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**READ THE TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Pay attention to how the table of contents is organized.

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Video Game Design****TABLE OF CONTENTS****PART ONE: A Brief History of Video Game Design**

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**SKILL PRACTICE**

Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- In which section would you probably find a definition of role-playing games?
  - Part One
  - Chapter 5
  - Part Three
  - Chapter 10
- In Chapter 9, you can probably read how video game designers \_\_\_\_\_.
  - use math in their work on video games
  - create artistic backgrounds for video games
  - invent character names for video games
  - apply scientific knowledge to video games
- In which section are you most likely to find a description of the earliest video games?
  - Part One
  - Chapter 3
  - Part Four
  - Chapter 11
- In Part Three, you can find information about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - the best and worst video games ever created
  - how designers build video games
  - the history of video gaming
  - the different categories of video games

**STRATEGY PRACTICE**

Why do you think this book is divided into four parts?

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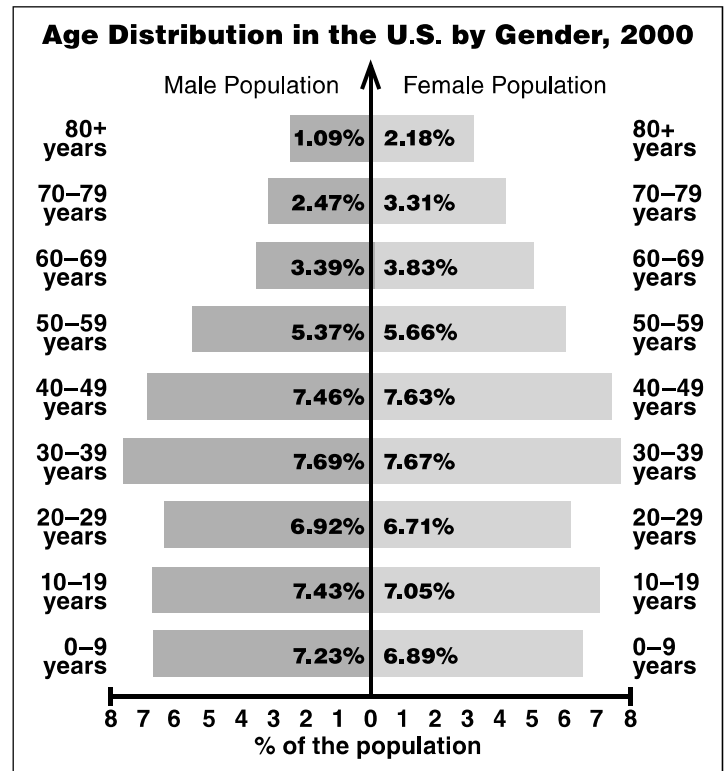
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**READ THE PASSAGE** Look at the information presented in the graph.

## Population Pyramids

How can you see an entire population at once? More than a quarter billion people live in the United States. That's a large number to understand, but statistics can give an overall view of the population's characteristics. A population pyramid is a graph used to show how an area's population is divided into ages and genders. Each bar in a population pyramid represents the percentage of the male or female U.S. population in a specific age range.

The shape of a population pyramid gives information about a population, too. For example, a pyramid that is wider on top than it is on the bottom means that there are more older people than young people. Reasons for this pattern might include a low birth rate, a high death rate among young people due to wars or disease, or the increase in the nation's young people moving to other countries. Similarly, a pyramid that is heavier on the bottom means there are more young people than old.


**SKILL PRACTICE** Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- A decline in population growth can be caused by a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - high death rate
  - low death rate
  - high birth rate
  - low rate of people leaving the country
- Which generalization about the U.S. population is supported by the graph?
  - There are more females over 80 than males under 9.
  - There are more males aged 60 to 69 than females ages 60 to 69.
  - There are more females under 9 than males under 9.
  - There are more females over 80 than males over 80.
- A population pyramid for a country with a high birth rate and low death rate would be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - shaped like a rectangle
  - shaped like an hourglass
  - wider at the bottom than at the top
  - wider at the top than at the bottom
- According to the graph and information in the passage, the U.S. population shows \_\_\_\_\_.
  - negative population growth
  - positive population growth
  - zero population growth
  - maximum population growth

**STRATEGY PRACTICE** According to the passage, why is the shape of a population pyramid significant?

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**READ THE PASSAGE** Think about what the information tells you.

### Top Five Languages Spoken Worldwide

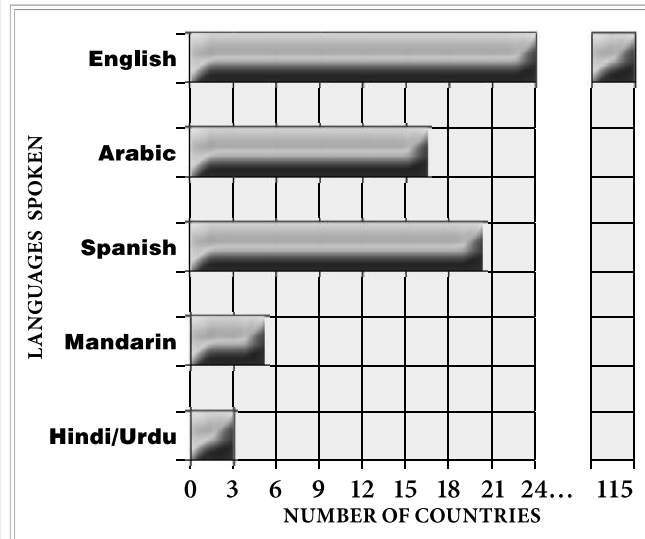
There are over 6,800 distinct languages spoken on Earth. But which languages are spoken by the most people? And which language is spoken in the most countries?

According to people who study language, Mandarin is spoken by more people than any other language. It is the most common language spoken in China, which is the country with the largest population.

Although Mandarin is spoken by the greatest number of people, English is spoken in more countries than any other language. The United States has the largest English-speaking population, followed by India, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, and Germany. This includes people who speak English as a second language.

Other languages with many speakers include Hindi and Urdu, which are forms of the same language, Hindustani. They are official languages in India, Pakistan, and Fiji. Spanish is the official

language in most of Latin America and South America. Arabic, which is spoken in most Middle Eastern and North African countries, is the fifth most common language. It is an official language in 16 countries.


**SKILL PRACTICE** Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- Which language mentioned in the passage is spoken in the fewest number of countries?
  - Mandarin
  - Hindi/Urdu
  - Spanish
  - Arabic
- Which language is spoken in the most countries?
  - Spanish
  - Mandarin
  - Arabic
  - English
- Which country has the second-largest English-speaking population?
  - China
  - Canada
  - the United Kingdom
  - India
- Which language is spoken by the greatest number of people?
  - Mandarin
  - Hindi/Urdu
  - Arabic
  - Spanish

**STRATEGY PRACTICE** Describe how the information in the chart is organized.

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