

If the World Were a Village

SECOND EDITION



A Book about the World's People

WRITTEN BY

David J. Smith

ILLUSTRATED BY

Shelagh Armstrong



SCHOLASTIC

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Written by David J. Smith

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A note on numbers and dates

The term "billion" means different things in different parts of the world. In this book, it means one thousand million, or 1 000 000 000.

Calendars often refer to dates before the year 1 as B.C., or before Christ, and dates after the year 1 as A.D., or anno Domini, a Latin term meaning "in the year of the Lord." However, most people in the world prefer to use the terms B.C.E., or before the common era, and C.E., or of the common era. For this book about the global village, B.C.E. and C.E. have been used.

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Welcome to the global village

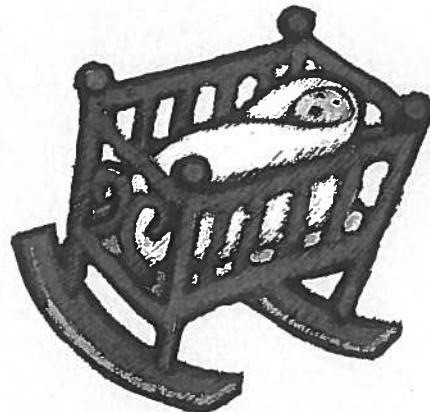
Earth is a crowded place, and it is getting more crowded all the time. At the end of 2011, the world's population was 7 billion — that's 7 000 000 000. Thirty-two countries have more than 40 million (40 000 000) people. Eleven countries each have more than 100 million (100 000 000) people. China has over 1 billion, 300 million (1 300 000 000), while India has more than 1 billion, 200 million (1 200 000 000) people.

Numbers this big are hard to understand, but what if we imagined the whole population of the world as a village of just 100 people? In this imaginary village, each person would represent 69 million (69 000 000) people from the real world.

One hundred people would fit nicely into a small village. By learning about the villagers — who they are and how they live — perhaps we can find out more about our neighbors in the real world and the problems our planet may face in the future.

Ready to enter the global village? Go down into the valley and walk through the gates. Dawn is chasing away the night shadows. The smell of wood smoke hangs in the air. A baby awakes and cries.

Come and meet the people of the global village.



A note on sources and how the calculations were made

As of 2010, there are 6.9 billion (6 900 000 000) people in the world, so in our village of 100, each person represents 69 million (69 000 000). Any time a fractional person would have appeared in our village, it was rounded to the nearest whole number.

Many different books and resources were used to collect data. The statistics were often surprising, especially because not all of the sources agreed.

While there is general agreement from one source to another on most of the statistics used in this book, there is some variation from year to year and source to source. The most notable area of disagreement was in predictions for future population growth, but there were also disagreements about food supply, education and clean air and water.

Whenever possible, the most current statistics have been used; if necessary, averages or extrapolations have been made from related information.

The following sources were used for the first edition of this book. The data were adjusted in 2010 using the most recent statistics available.

Report WP/91 to WP/98, *World Population Profile: 1991 to 1998*. U.S. Census Bureau. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1991–1998 (<http://www.census.gov/ipc>).

State of the World: A Worldwatch Institute Report on Progress toward a Sustainable Society. Linda Starke, ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1994–2010 (<http://www.worldwatch.org>).

The Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1992–2010 (<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook>).

The Information Please Almanac. Otto Johnson, ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1996–1998 (<http://www.infoplease.com>).

The New York Times Almanac. John W. Wright, ed. New York: Penguin Putnam, 1997–2008.

The State of the World's Children. Carol Bellamy, ed. New York: United Nations Publications, 2009 and earlier editions (<http://www.unicef.org>).

The Time Almanac. Borgna Brunner, ed. Boston: Information Please LLC, 1999–2008.

The United Nations Human Development Report. United Nations Development Programme. New York: United Nations Publications, 1992–2010 (<http://www.un.org>).

The Universal Almanac. John W. Wright, ed. New York: Andrews & McMeel, 1992–1996.

The World Almanac and Book of Facts. Robert Famighetti, ed. New Jersey: World Almanac Books, 1996–2008.

The World Development Report. World Bank. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992–2010 (<http://www.worldbank.org>).

World Resources: A Report by the World Resources Institute in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992–1993 to 1998–1999 (<http://www.wri.org>).

Vital Signs, The Environmental Trends That Are Shaping Our Future. Worldwatch Institute. Linda Starke, ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1992–2006 (<http://www.worldwatch.org>).

World Population Data Sheet: 2004–2009. U.S. Census Bureau. Washington, D.C.

I also used many pamphlets and printouts from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and other UN agencies, found through the UN Web site (<http://www.un.org>) and the U.S. Census Bureau Web site (<http://www.census.gov>).

The following books and atlases also provided data:

The Economist Pocket World in Figures. The Economist. London: Profile Books, 1996.

The Economist World Atlas. The Economist. London: Profile Books, 1996.

Goode's World Atlas. Edward B. Espenshade, Jr., ed. Chicago: Rand McNally, 2009 and earlier editions. (This atlas is particularly useful because it has a wonderful section of thematic maps.)

Kurian, George T. *The New Book of World Rankings*. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 1994, p. 32.

McEvedy, Colin, and Richard Jones. *The Atlas of World Population History*. New York: Penguin Books, 1978.

The National Geographic Atlas of the World. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 2004.

The National Geographic Satellite Atlas of the World. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 1998.

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