

Overpopulation: Too many to count

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Our Planet Earth is currently holding around 7.8 billion people as of 2020. The human population has been steadily increasing for the last 200 years. It has done so with the help of technology and increased food surplus. However, the population have grown so much that it is having a debilitating effect on our environment. The world saw an exponential rise in the population during the 50s and has increasingly grown since. There were 3 billion people in the 1960s and by the turn of the century in the 2000s it exploded to double that amount in the space of forty years. The larger the population gets the larger the demand for resources. Overpopulation has inadvertently led to a rise in global warming, pollution, deforestation and mass extinctions. As the global population increases, more food is needed to sustain the growing populace. In turn, forests and woodlands are being cut down to makes space for agricultural land.

Agriculture is the leading cause of deforestation around the world, around 80 percent of deforestation is caused by agriculture. The tropical rainforests of South America are in great danger because of this. The rainforests produce 20 percent of the Earth's oxygen. Rainforests, particularly in Brazil are being cut down in order to make space for its growing cattle population. Brazil has the world's second largest cattle herd with about 232 million. The problem resides in the soil where cattle graze, the soil is extremely infertile. The humus layer is washed out rendering it barren. This leads to more deforestation in search for more grazing land. This process will continue to increase as the population gets bigger. A growing population means a growing demand for food, which leads to deforestation. Experts predict that the Amazon rainforest will disappear in less than 50 years.