



Discovery Worksheets

Comparing statistics

A wide range of statistics is available today to help businesses, institutions, governments and individuals plan more effectively. The statistics section on pages 166–173 of the *Atlas of Discovery* will help you compare a number of variables for the countries of the world.

1. Population growth is a major problem for the world. Research suggests that the birth rate is higher in countries where women cannot read. As populations increase, strain is placed on both the supply of natural resources and on the environment. Use the statistics on pages 166–173 of the *Atlas of Discovery* to help you complete the following table.

Country	Birth rate (per 1000 people), 2002	Literacy rate (percentage of population who can read and write), 2002
Afghanistan		
Australia		
Austria		
Botswana		
Burkina Faso		
Cambodia		
Canada		

2. How can you use the information in your completed table to plan to reduce population growth in some countries?

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3. If you were in charge of developing education programs in Burkina Faso to reduce the population growth, what other information (besides the birth rate and literacy rate) would you look for to help you make decisions?

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