

### People People Everywhere . . .

Zeek and Minny were having an argument:

**ZEEK:** “You know, Minny, I’m really concerned. It seems like every day there are more people everywhere; on the freeways, in the shopping malls, visiting National Parks, just all over the place. Don’t you ever wonder when we will run out of stuff and space for all of these people?”

**MINNY:** Zeek, you’re just paranoid. Have you ever driven across this huge country and looked at the vast amount of open space that we have? It seems endless! With the rate that technology is progressing, we could find ways that all these spaces could produce food and be places to live for people. Biological engineering is finding incredible way to increase food production. We’ll be able to take care of people on this planet (thanks to technology) for millions of years in the future . . .

**ZEEK:** I kinda know what you mean . . . it does seem like we have a lot of unused space on the planet, and its amazing what scientists are coming up with these days--anything is possible. But I still feel uneasy. Aren’t we also going to keep people alive longer because of technology? According to worldwide census statistics the world population recently doubled in size in just 40 years. They also said that we currently have about 8 Billion people on the earth. That just seems like eventually we will be falling off the face of the earth . . . someday . . .

**MINNY:** Zeek, get real. You can’t fall off the earth. Wake up and look around you. By the time people are falling off the earth the sun will have burned out or a meteor will have hit us, or something. It would be thousands and thousands of years. I think you should pay attention to things that really matter . . .

**ANNOUNCER:** Is Zeek just paranoid? Is Minny out of touch? How can we know for sure what the *facts* are?

TO BEGIN, EXAMINE THE WORLD POPULATION CHART ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE AND GRAPH THE WORLD POPULATION

