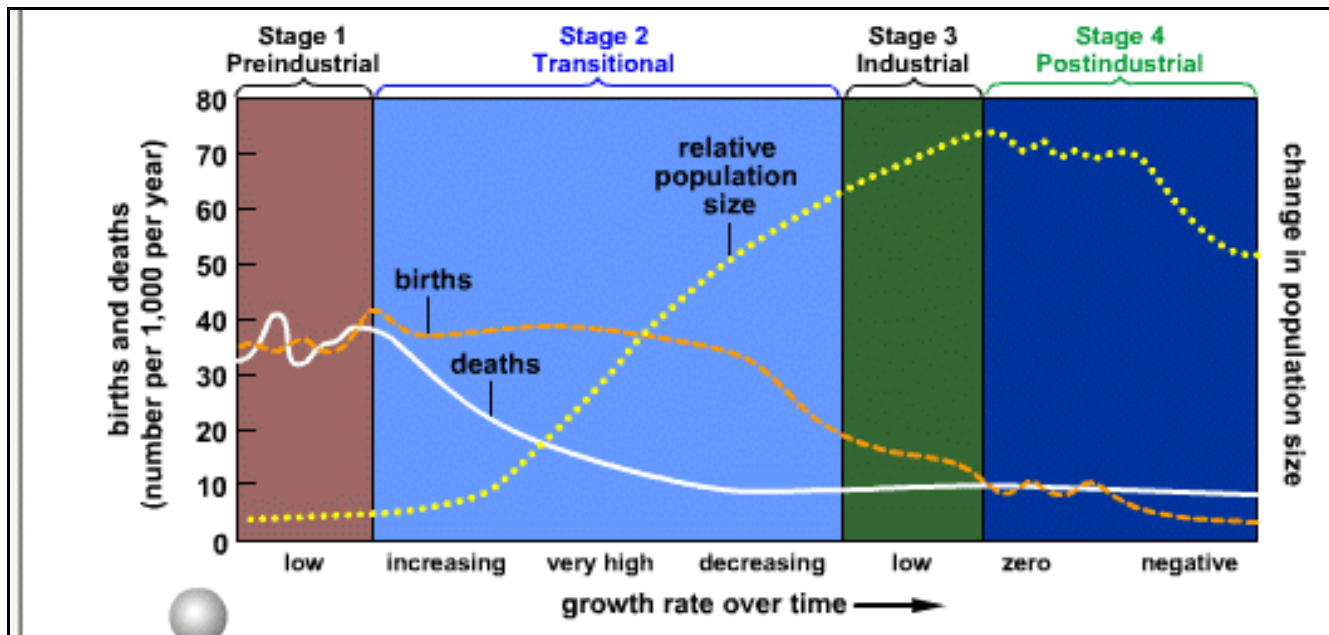


Demographic transition is a process by which underdeveloped countries experience a change in their birth and mortality rates because of a change in the economic development of the state. Over time and with rising influence, high birth and death rates are replaced by slower or declining birth rates.



This model identifies 4 stages of growth:

Stage 1 - **Preindustrial** - death rates and birth rates are high and roughly in balance. There is very slow growth of the population.

Stage 2 - **Transitional** - Industrialization begins. death rates drop rapidly due to improvements in food supply and sanitation, which increase life spans and reduce disease. These changes usually come about due to improvements in farming techniques, access to technology, basic healthcare, and education. Birth rates remain high and this produces an imbalance. Countries in this stage experience a large increase in population.

Stage 3 - **Industrial** - Birth rates fall due to access to contraception, increases in wages, urbanization, an increase in the status and education of women, etc. Population growth begins to level off. Canada, US, Europe, etc. are in this stage

Stage 4 - **Post-industrial** - Low birth rates and low death rates. Birth rates may drop to well below replacement level as has happened in countries like Germany, Italy, and Japan, leading to a shrinking population, a threat to many industries that rely on population growth..