*Section 12.1 Human Population Growth*

*ISP - Week 4*

*Read pg. 550-555 and answer the questions below.*

1. Explain how humans have increased the carrying capacity of their environment. (K)
2. Which type of population pyramid do you think Canada has? Explain your reasoning. (K)
3. What characteristics do humans have that classify them as K-selected? (K)
4. Do you think the carrying capacity of Earth is static? Explain your reasoning. (T)
5. If the worldwide growth rate has been decreasing, why is the human population expected to continue to increase? (T)
6. Building a sustainable world is an important task for the survival of the human population. On what factors will the quality of life for future generations depend? (A)

ANSWER KEY

1. Food supply was increased through agricultural technology and domesticating animals. Predators were staved off with weapons. Medicines controlled diseases. Shelter provided protection from weather and improved storage for food to prolong supply
2. I would expect Canada’s population pyramid to have a rectangular shape because the birth rate is only slightly higher than the death rate, which means that the population grows slowly. The population in each age category tends to be about the same.
3. Humans have a small number of offspring, begin reproduction later in life, and provide a lot of parental care, like other K-selected species.
4. The carrying capacity of Earth is probably not static. It likely varies with factors such as weather, environmental conditions, and the amounts that people consume.
5. Although the growth rate is decreasing, there are more people present to reproduce.
6. It will depend on the ability to limit population growth and per capita resource consumption.