**Rural Depopulation in Japan.**

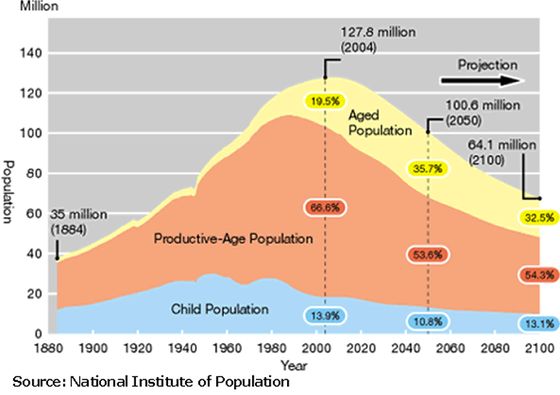
**Main Activities.**

**1] Watch the film about ‘The Village of the Dolls’, Nagoro, Shikoku.**

[**https://vimeo.com/92453765**](https://vimeo.com/92453765)

**We are worried about over population and overcrowding of Planet Earth. Japan’s population is actually falling! As the graph below shows:**

**Population Change in Japan.**



**2] What population problems will increase in Japan between now and 2100?**

**Out of 49 Japanese prefectures [like our counties] only 8 are growing, and they are all around the big cities like Tokyo.**

**People are migrating in Japan from the rural villages to larger settlements.**

**This is called Rural Depopulation. E.g. In Nagora in the video clip only 12 people are left, most have died or left.**

**The reasons why people migrate can be classified as either PUSH or PULL factors.**

**Push factors are the negative reasons why people want to leave a place.**

**Pull factors are the positive reasons that attract people to a new place.**

**2] Study the cards and sort them into push and pull factors relating to Japans rural depopulation.**

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| **\*Traditional Primary jobs e.g. mining, forestry, fishing and farming failed so unemployment was high.** |
| **\*Jobs that remain in farming, forestry low paid and considered low status. Most jobs in tourism are low paid and seasonal.** |
| **\* Modern buildings are kept in repair so offer more safety from earthquakes.** |
| **\*Good choice of schools and colleges with full classes.** |
| **\*Best healthcare and medical facilities and highly skilled staff.** |
| **\* Schools closing due to falling rolls, no higher education colleges nearby.** |
| **\*People have no community life, family and friends are not nearby.** |
| **\*A wide range of shops and services to choose from.** |
| **\*Steep slopes and mountainous areas, with bitter winters make farming and transport difficult.** |
| **\*Little to do, few entertainments to visit locally.** |
| **\*Lots of well paid full time jobs, and a wide range, in all job groups- secondary to quaternary.** |
| **\*A choice of affordable reliable transport options is available.** |
| **\*Modern community life is thriving, friends are nearby.** |
| **\*Local health facilities are limited or not available, long journeys needed in emergencies.** |
| **\*Few local shops and services available.** |
| **\*Many people are isolated because there are few if any affordable transport options available.** |
| **\* More freedom of behaviour especially for women and children.** |
| **\*Expectations of women and children, especially, are old fashioned and limiting.** |
| **\*A higher standard of living and modern living.** |
| **\* A lower standard of living and a more traditional life style.** |
| **\* A lower level of disaster preparedness spending and equipment.** |
| **\*A high level of disaster preparedness.** |
| **\*The price of food imports, especially rice, and timber make it hard for farmers or forestry companies to make a profit.** |
| **\*Chemical pollution from industry and farm run-off has polluted some rivers and coastal waters causing reduced stocks for fishing.** |

**3] Now classify the cards in both piles into economic, social or environmental reasons. [write the codes EC, S and EN on the cards in pencil. \*\*note some cards could be classified into more than one reason group.]**

**4] Which type of reasons dominate the push factors? Can you offer an explanation for this?**

**5] Which type of reasons dominate the pull factors? Can you offer an explanation for this?**

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**Fighting rural depopulation in Japan.**

**The Japan P.M. said in 2014.**

**‘My government feels a sense of crisis about the lack of a vibrant countryside’.**

**There are various strategies that are now being used to try to halt and even reverse the rural out migration in Japan. Some strategies are from Central Government, some from Regional Government and some are from the Private Sector and individuals.**

**4] In groups rank the strategies described below from most effective to least effective and be ready to defend your ranking with reasons in the class discussion that will follow.**

**5] Add any other strategies that you think could help to halt or even reverse rural out migration in Japan, be ready to explain your ideas with reasons.**

**Strategies in use:**

\*Mishima offers a free cow or 500,000 yen to incomers. Other village communities offer free rice, free school meals, free health care or free entry to local hot springs.

\* In 2015 the Japanese government begins a new 5 year plan ‘to reignite rural communities’.

\*The government aims to create 50,000 jobs in farming, forestry & fishing in rural areas.

\*The government aims to create 80,000 jobs in tourism in rural areas.

\* The government is giving grants to local governments to support a rural revival e.g. better transport links, also ‘tax breaks’ for companies relocating into rural areas.

\*The government is moving its offices into rural areas.

\* Head of the Ogama village Mr. Miyasako planned for ‘coming destruction’ 10 years ago but the planned golf course was rejected.

\*The Ogama valley is now to be used for land fill waste disposal. Village residents are to be given compensation to buy a new home & for health bills.

\* Other village commuities have sold their land for a nuclear power plant or a high security prison.

\* About 80,000 ‘salary men’ migrated from cities to rural areas last year.

\* In Kumejima 2 high schools have closed as the population declined from 10,000 to 8,000.

\* In Kumejima there are few jobs outside tourism except seasonal sugar cane work.

\* In Kumejima an Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion plant has been built [the 1st in the world] which produces clean energy from sea temperatures.

\* The new plant in Kumejima has attracted 600 people to live & work on the island.

\*Better local services and subsidised transport would encourage rural dwellers to stay.