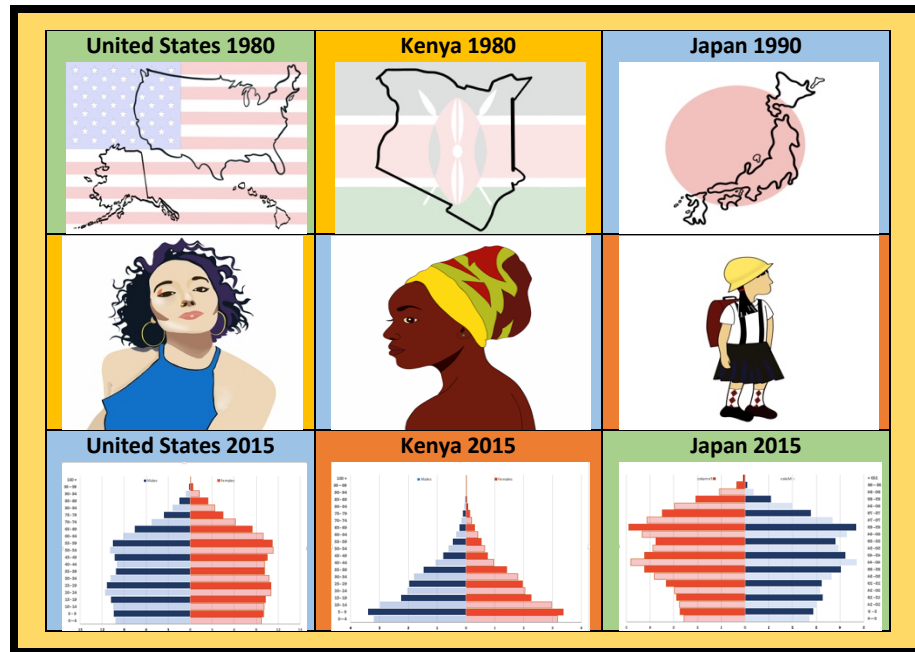


Unit 1

A Country's Shape



Introduction

The United States, Kenya, and Japan, like all countries, are a collection of people often described by age, sex, race, education, and a number of other factors. Are these descriptions important? In particular, does the description of a country by age groups help us better understand a country? Unit 1 defines the shape of a country based on the counts of people living in the country by age. Age groups are displayed by way of population pyramid graphs and histograms. The graphs, and the summaries derived from them, begin to unpack stories about people living in these countries. Kristin, Raphine, Hana, their sisters and brothers and parents and nieces and nephews are people counted in these graphs. Their stories are not just about them. They are stories about special people who help us understand the United States, Kenya, and Japan.

The graphs are more than just visual summaries of each country. They serve another purpose that is also connected to the stories in this module. Each graph is a point on a country's timeline that tells us something about its past and possible future. From this point, we unpack a part of each country's history as well as speculate about its future. This module uses the count of people by ages to build a quilt that is understood by applying mathematical tools that emerge from a country's past and present shapes. Building this quilt, called a recursive model, starts by counting people. Let us begin the process, after all, "People Count!"