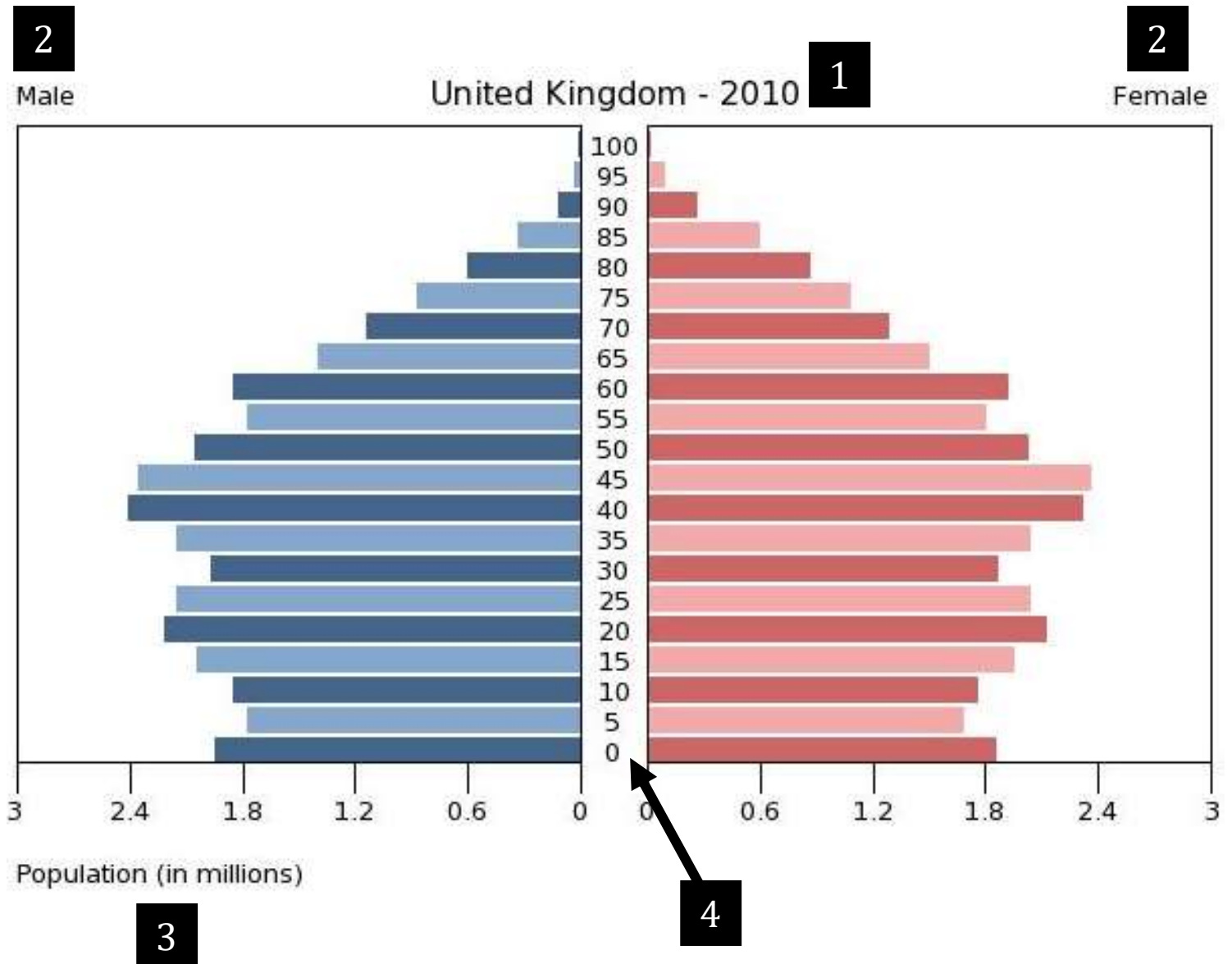


# Population Pyramids

*What is a population pyramid?*

A population pyramid is a pyramid-shaped diagram illustrating the age distribution of a population; the youngest ages are at the bottom ascending in age till the oldest age at the top of the pyramid.

*How do you read a population pyramid?*



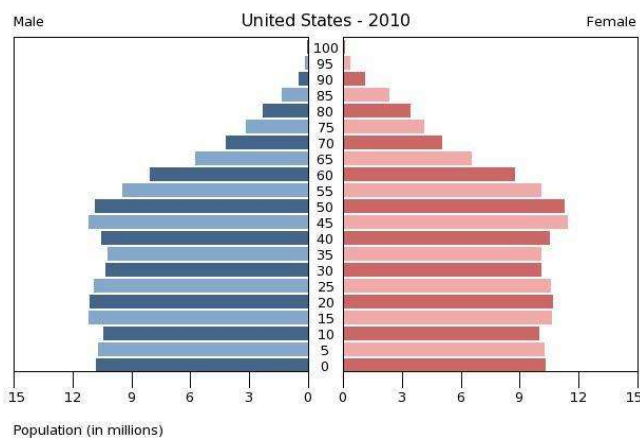
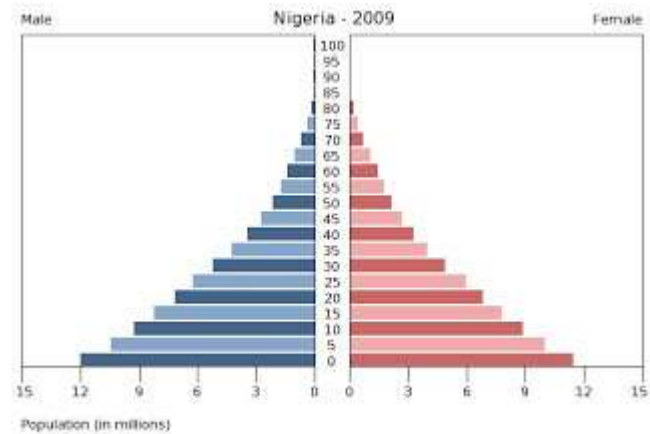
1. The title of the Population Pyramid. Usually, this is the name of the location along with the year.
2. The left side of the pyramid shows the population distribution of the males while the right side shows the population distribution of the females of the location.
3. Horizontal axis shows the populations (in this case) millions.
4. Vertical axis lists the age group; typically by five year increments.

# Types of Population Pyramids

A population pyramid shows the age and gender of a society. Population pyramids allow geographers analyze a place and identify its rate of growth. There are three types of growth; rapid, slow/stable and negative/declining. Below are examples of each stage.

## **Rapid Growth Population Pyramid**

Looks like a typical pyramid with a large base that gets smaller as you ascend. This type of population typically has poor health care and short life expectancies. Mostly found in under developed and developing countries.



## **Slow or Stable Growth Population Pyramid**

There is little change in the lower sections of the pyramid. Only after the upper ages do you see a marked change in population. This type of population pyramid is mostly found in developed countries sometimes middle income countries. These countries have good health care, long life expectancies and stable governments.

## **Negative or Declining Growth Population Pyramid**

The top third and bottom third are both smaller than the middle section of the pyramid. This type of population pyramid is mostly found in developed countries. These countries have good health care, long life expectancies and stable governments. However, their birth rates are lower than needed to replace the population.

