



countdown to the MILLENNIUM

The year that precedes 1999 is not just any year. It is a year that ends an era and begins a new one. In preparation for the new millennium, the *English Teaching Forum* has dedicated this page as our countdown to the millennium. This section will contain activities and discussions to prepare you and your students for the year 2000 and beyond.

The first millennium: years 1 to 1000

Start a discussion in your class—if you could travel back to the year 1AD what would you expect to see?

The second millennium 2000 and beyond

Now travel to the future beyond the year 2000. What do you expect to find.



Our planet



What is happening? There has been great concern expressed over the population explosion. A century ago there was about 1.7 billion people in the world—now the world's population is close to 5.7 billion. It is said that the world's population grows at the rate of nearly 100 million people a year.

Some people are worried that the earth will not be able to meet the demands of its people. We will not have enough food or shelter. The United Nations estimates by the year 2050 there will be 10 billion people on our planet.

For discussion!

What is the population of your town? What is the population of a major city near you? Tokyo? London? Calcutta? New York? Los Angeles?

How do you expect these figures to change in the year 2000?

How will we feed all these people?

How will we house all these people?

mil•len•ni•um
(mə-lĕn´ē-əm)
comes from the latin word *mille*
meaning
“thousand.”

Earth Day 1999

This is the 29th earth day celebration.

What are you doing to help the environment?

Prepare for the new millennium by planting a tree, start a recycling program, or make a pledge to start caring for the earth. Walk or ride a bike, don't litter—clean up the trash when it crosses your path.

If everyone started today, and acted on just one of these suggestions, think of how much better the world would be in the year 2000.

<http://www.everything2000.com/>