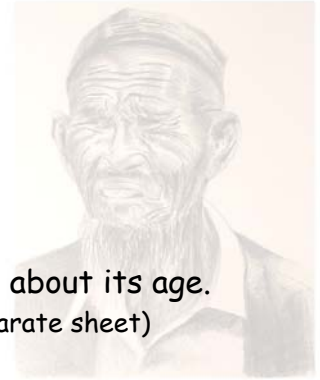


How Old?



Starter - Match up the Living thing with the correct fact about its age.
(Cards available on separate sheet)

Main Activity -

During Phase 7 (2006-7) of CensusAtSchool 15,000 children aged between 11 and 18 gave their answer to the question:

“What age would you like to live to in years?”

On the data sheet you will find graphs and tables showing the responses from 1000 randomly selected pupils along with some graphs and tables of secondary data showing life expectancy from Birth for people in the UK and how long you might expect to remain in good health.

In your group or pair discuss and consider the following questions:

- Would you really like to live forever?
- Why do some people (especially females) want to look young?
- What is the average age that teenagers would like to live to? - Do you agree with this?
- Do males and females have different views? Would life expectancy predictions match with their views?
- Do you think that adults, or people of different ages, would give different responses to this question? - If so give reasons
- How has life expectancy changed in the UK over the last century? Interpret the graphs and summarize the main trends. What has caused the fluctuations? Do you agree with the predictions up to 2021 and by the time teenagers of today get old will their expectations match reality?

In pairs take turns to read out the statements from page 2 - do any of these things alter your opinion about the age you would like to live to?

Either:

Collect data from your class and compare their responses to the data from CensusAtSchool. Think about the best and most appropriate way to represent the data.

Or:

Create a poster summarising and illustrating your views on a particular question. Use the data and graphs to help you.

Plenary - In Pairs tell each other, in turn, what you have learnt about age today and how the data you have been using helps you to get a more rounded picture of the issue of aging.

Growing Old Statements

a) In the UK there are more people over 60 than under 16.	b) By the age of 65, lung efficiency has decreased to about three fifths of its optimum level	c) Peak lung function is reached at 20-30 years.
d) By the late 40's, the skin is less elastic and wrinkles appear.	e) Women usually go through the menopause at 45-55 years and afterwards are no longer fertile.	f) Over 70 sense of taste becomes less acute as fewer than half the taste buds remain active.
g) In 2007 approximately 11,000 Britons were aged 100 or over	h) Brain cells are never replaced after they have reached maturity.	i) By 2015 a quarter of the UK population will be over 60
j) After the age of 50 it becomes harder to see in low light or to see moving objects.	k) By the age of 70, kidney function has declined to about 50% of its efficiency at the age of 40.	l) In men, testosterone levels start to decline at the age of 40-50
m) In the past 40 years the number of over 65s has doubled	n) Muscle strength at the age of 25 is about double that at the age of 85.	o) After the age of 25, muscle bulk and strength starts to decrease.
p) By the age of 90, the brain has lost up to one tenth of it's tissue, leading to loss of intellectual ability and physical coordination	q) Men over 50 the prostate gland usually starts to enlarge. It may constrict the bladder outlet making the passing of urine difficult.	r) By 2015 there will be 3 times as many men and 2 times as many women over 100 as there are in 2005