

“Break It Down (The Pop Song)”

By Mark Mather

Here’s a song about population
With births and deaths and some
immigration.
Demography is a key foundation
For understanding our world and nations.

Break it down.

What’s the population in your town?
Take the number and then break it down.
Count by age, gender, race and then,
Add the births and deaths and movers,
And then you start again.

Babies make the population grow,
But people come and sometimes people
go.
Some will die and others move away.
Millions of people come and go every
day.

Break it down, break it down,
That’s demography.
Break it down like they do at PRB.
Break it down, break it down,
It’s 1-2-3.

To balance the equation
For your town or for your nation,
Add the births, subtract the deaths,
And don’t forget about migration,
And through this simple computation
You will know what makes the population
grow.

Seven billion people on the Earth,
But there are fewer deaths than there are
births.
That’s what makes the population grow,
But if the birth rate keeps on falling
The growth will start to slow,

Break it down, break it down,
That’s demography.
Break it down like they do at PRB.
Break it down, break it down,
It’s 1-2-3.
Here’s a song about population,
Break it down.

It’s a ‘Pop Song,’
Come and sing along
To the ‘Pop Song,’
Come and sing along.

Mark Mather is associate vice president of U.S. Programs at PRB, where he specializes in issues related to U.S. social and demographic trends, child and family well-being, and data from the U.S. Census Bureau.