## Statistics: Book Two, Level 4+

## **Population Pyramids**

Population pyramids are useful for showing the age distribution of people in a group. Here is a pyramid showing a prediction for New Zealand's population in 2051:





1. a. Do you think the following interpretations of the graph are correct? Explain your answers.

i. Women seem to live longer.

iii. The average number of children in each family must be only about 1.

ii.

iv. About 5 percent of the population is in each age band. That's surprisingly regular.

Nearly one-quarter of all people will be retired.

b. What other statements could you write, using information from this graph?

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ACTIVITY

2. The pyramids below show New Zealand's population in 1901 and 2001 and a projection for 2101.

Write at least three sentences to describe the changes taking place (or projected to take place) over this 200 year period.



INVESTIGATION

Imagine you are part of a "think tank" planning for New Zealand's future. Using the data above, what changes would you need to plan for in the areas of the workforce, health, taxes, housing, and shopping?