

Reading Graphs: Interpolating and Extrapolating

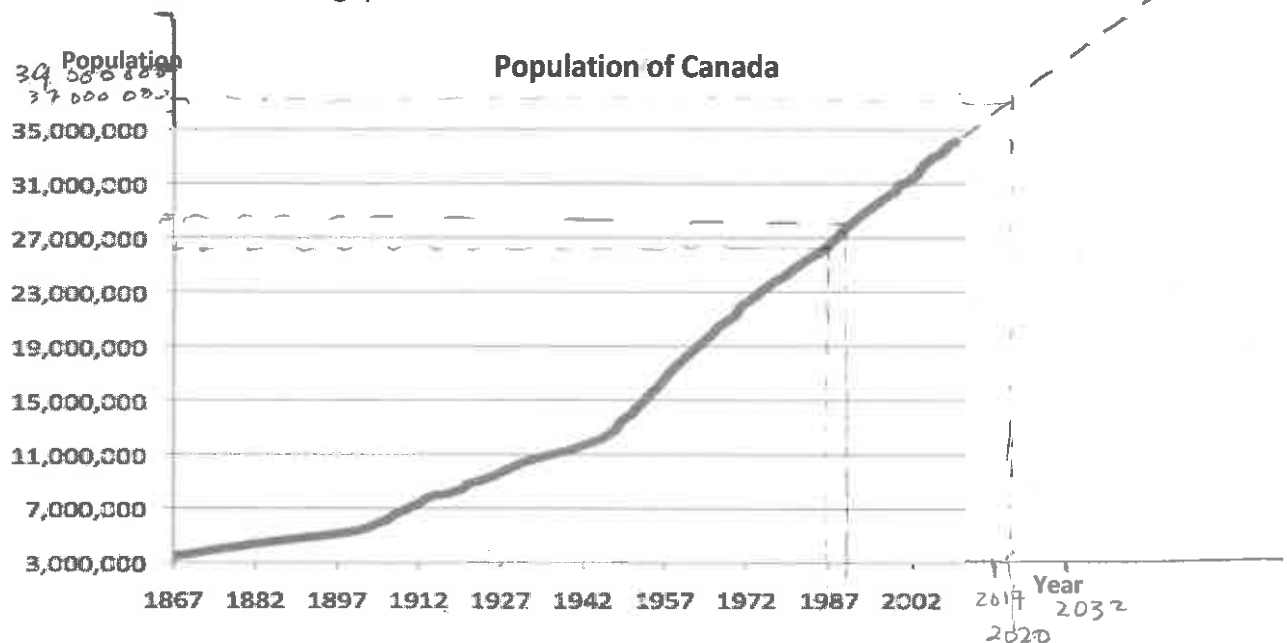
Graphs are often used to show trends over time. In many cases, some parts of the graph are easier to read than others.

Sometimes a question may require us to estimate a little bit by reading between the values. (Reading between the given values is called **interpolating**.)

Other questions may ask us to predict values that might exist beyond the edge of the graph. (Predicting graph values beyond the given information is called **extrapolating**.)

Example 1

The line graph below shows the trend in Canada's population over a 135 year time period. Examine the graph and answer the following questions.



- a) What was the size of Canada's population in 1987? App. 26,500,000
- b) What was the population of Canada in 1992? App. 28,200,000
- c) Predict Canada's population for 2020. App. 38,000,000
- d) What assumption are we making in part c)? That the population growth will be the same as the previous years.