

## Warm-Up: Baby Boom

Almost exactly nine months after World War II ended, “the cry of the baby was heard across the land,” as historian Landon Jones later described the trend. More babies were born in 1946 than ever before: 3.4 million, 20 percent more than in 1945. This was the beginning of the so-called “baby boom.” In 1947, another 3.8 million babies were born; 3.9 million were born in 1952; and more than 4 million were born every year from 1954 until 1964, when the boom finally tapered off. By then, there were 76.4 million “baby boomers” in the United States. They made up almost 40 percent of the nation’s population



Newspaper columnist Sylvia Porter reported the following after reading the astonishing 1950 census.

*“Take the 3,548,000 babies born in 1950. Bundle them into a batch; bounce them all over the bountiful land that is America. What do you get? BOOM! The biggest boomiest boom ever known in history. Just imagine how much these extra people absorb-in food, clothing, gadgets, housing, and services. Our factories must expand just to keep up.”*

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1. What was the baby boom?
  2. How much of the U.S. population did the baby boom generation make up by 1964?
  3. What action is happening in the cartoon?
  4. What does Sylvia Porter think will happen as a result of the baby boom?