Name _____   Date _____
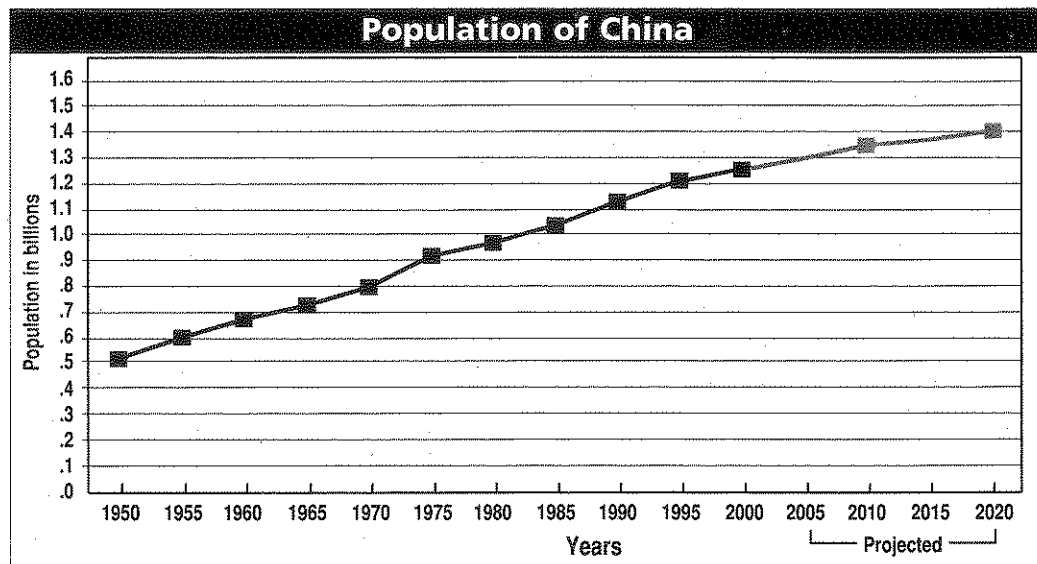
SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE *Interpreting Graphs*

One way to make statistical data easier to understand and interpret is to display the figures in a graph. Line graphs, such as the one below, depict changes that occur over time. Use the information in the graph to answer the questions that follow. (See Skillbuilder Handbook)

Population of China

1. What time period does this graph cover? _____

2. a. What is China's population in the year 2000? _____

   b. What is the population projection for the year 2020? _____

3. Compare this graph with the line graph on page 540 of your textbook.

   a. What was the increase in China's population between 1700 and 1800? _____

   b. What was their population increase between 1950 and 1990?
      (Remember, 0.6 billion equals 600 million.) _____

   c. China added nearly four times more people between 1950 and 1990 than it did between
      1700 and 1800. Why do you think the line for 1700 to 1800 is steeper than the line
      for 1950 to 1990? _____

   d. Based on the information presented in the two graphs, what conclusions can you
      draw about population growth in China from 1650 to 2000? _____

4. You are an adviser to the Chinese government in the year 2000. Government officials
   are trying to decide among three policies: trying to increase population growth, trying to increase food
   production, and trying to limit population growth.

   Which policy or policies would you recommend? Give reasons for your answer. _____

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