Discussion Questions:

1. What did you observe about how our population changed over time?

   It took a long time to add any people to the Earth. Most of our growth happened in just the past century.

2. After we started counting, who was the first person to join the circle? What number did he/she have? From the start, how many years did it take to add 250 million people to the Earth?

   The first person to join the circle had the number 51. It took 255 years to add 250 million people (51 x 5, or 255 years).

3. Towards the end of the simulation, how long was it taking to add 250 million people to the Earth?

   It took five years or less. Between the numbers 88 and 100, we added at least one person to the Earth with each number called.

4. Based on what you saw happening by the end of the simulation, how do you think this activity would be different if we came back in five years and did it again?

   The trend suggests we would need one or two more people for the simulation if we did it five years from now.

5. What would happen if we continued to grow at this rate?

   The Earth would become increasingly crowded.

6. If current growth rates continue, the world's population would double in about 60 years. How many more numbers past 100 would we need to count before the population of the circle doubled? How many more people would enter the circle?

   We would need to count to 112, or 12 more numbers (60 years/5 years=12). We would need to add an additional 28 people to the circle.