**Making Babies True or False**



**Instructions:** Read through the following examples of pro-natalist population policies in order to decide which of them are true and which of them are false.

1. Singapore is aggressively tackling their low birth rate problem—with the help of mints. On August 9, 2012, the Singapore authorities partnered with mint-peddlers Mentos to put together “National Night,” a campaign meant to encourage Singaporean couples to let their “patriotism explode” and help the nation increase its [0.78 children per woman birth rate](http://www.cnbc.com/id/49471704/Governments_Organize_Matchmaking_as_Asiarsquos_Birth_Rates_Fall).
2. In Singapore the Urban Redevelopment Authority has [placed a limit](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-20542156) on the number of small one-bedroom flats that can be built in an effort to curb the single lifestyle and encourage people to shack up and make babies.
3. Singapore spends around $1.3 billion annually on a ministry of procreation trying to convince its citizens to get busy, including offering $15,000 parental packages for each child, tax incentives, and extended maternity leave.
4. In addition to the cash gifts and incentives offered to staff who have more than one child, in 2010, the South Korean government decided to [turn off the lights](http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/skorea-orders-lights-out-to-boost-birthrate-1877414.html) in its offices at 7pm on the third Wednesday of every month—[called “Family Day”](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8469532.stm)—to "help staff get dedicated to childbirth and upbringing.
5. Russia’s population has been shrinking since the 1990s, propelled by a low birth rate and high death rate (the high alcoholism rate may be a factor in that). So, in 2007, the government declared September 12 national [Day of Conception](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20268426/ns/world_news-europe/t/russians-offered-day-prizes-procreate/#.UO7Fl7aDo7A), in the hopes that giving couples the day off from work to do their civic duty would result in a baby spike nine months later, on Russia’s national day, June 12. Women who gave birth on national day could win refrigerators, money, even cars.
6. Yotaro is a Japanese [robot baby](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsvideo/weirdnewsvideo/7505847/Robot-baby-aims-to-increase-birthrate-in-Japan.html). Though he doesn’t exactly look like a real baby, he cries, sneezes, suffers that perpetually drippy nose that is instantly recognizable to any parent, giggles when tickled, and is calmed by his rattle. His creators are hoping that if he can spark some measure of parental emotion in the people who see him, maybe they’ll consider making a real baby.
7. In 1966, the government of Romania took some drastic and chilling measures. They chose the stick rather than the carrot: Though there are tax and monetary incentives to encourage people to have children, they also punished people for not having them: Childless men and women over the age of 25, regardless of marital status, were subject to a new tax that could be as much as 20 percent of their income.
8. In Norway the headmaster of the local school gave 40 female employees the day off and encouraged them to engage in an all day ‘love in’ in a barn in order to increase the birth rate as the town has been suffering from rapid depopulation.
9. In Sweden in order to encourage an increase in the birth rate the government has now allowed males as well as females to have up to nine months paid time off work to look after new born children. The idea for this is that it means that woman won’t have to forgo their careers as their partners can take care of the children.
10. In 1939, the French passed the “Code de la famille”, a complex piece of pro natalist legislation. As part of this policy the government banned the sale of contraceptives in order to increase the birth rate.