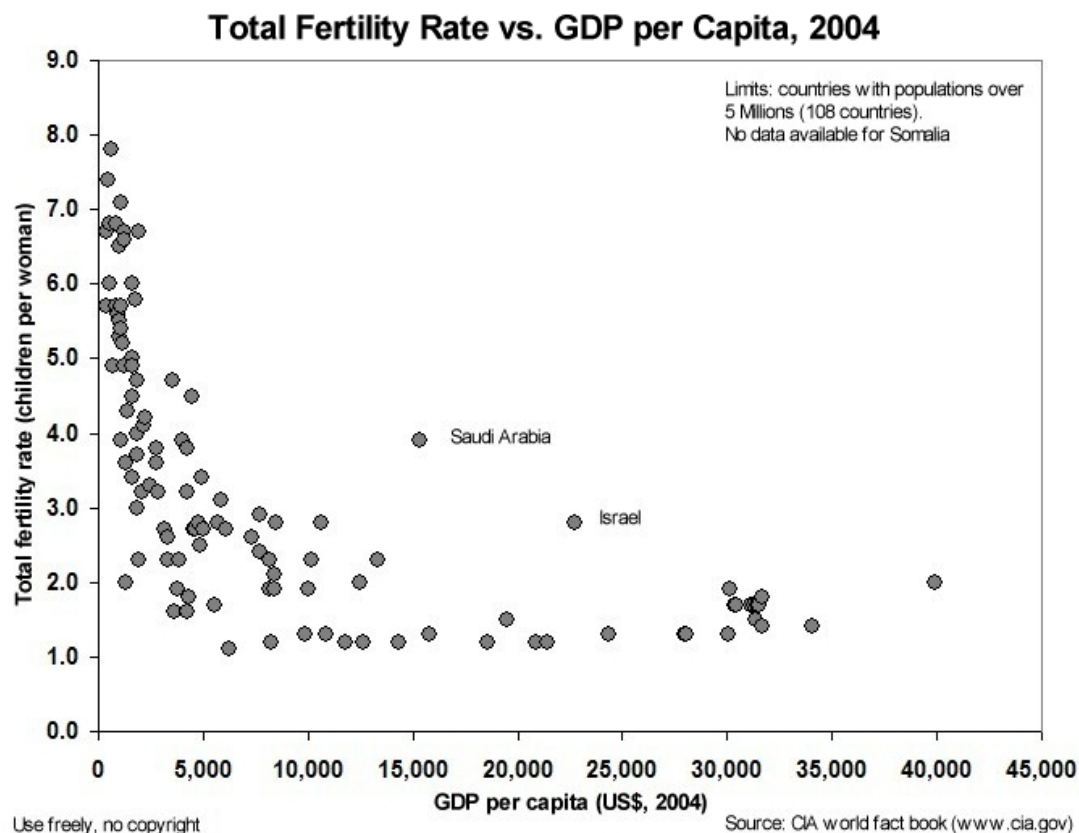# Explaining Information

Key Vocabulary:

- Mortality
- Analysis
- Trends
- Fertility
- GDP per capita
- Decline
- Rise
- Drop

Total Fertility Rate vs. GDP per Capita, 2004

Limits: countries with populations over 5 Millions (108 countries).
No data available for Somalia

Saudi Arabia

Israel

Total fertility rate (children per woman)

GDP per capita (US$, 2004)

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Source: CIA world fact book (www.cia.gov)

Explaining the graph:

This graph shows the relationship between the total fertility rate in countries around the world and the GDP per capita of those countries, in 2004. There is a sharp drop in the fertility rate of poor countries between zero and about 5,000 dollars GDP per capita. When the GDP is low, the fertility rate tends to be high. In general, wealthy countries tend to have fewer children per woman. There are far more countries near the lower end of the graph, in terms of GDP, and relatively few at the higher end.

Example analysis:

Since many people in poor countries are farmers, having more children means having more workers to do manual labor, which means the farm can be more successful. I think the fertility rate is also high due to poor living conditions and insufficient basic healthcare and nutrition in 3rd-world countries. It tells me that infant mortality is high. Women need to have more children just to compensate. It's really tragic. Perhaps in developed countries, like Canada or the UK, the average number of children per woman is low due to the high cost of raising and educating children.

Assignment:

Find some graphs according to your interests, or perhaps your field. Practice describing the data points first, then give a simple analysis. Make sure to use phrases and words from this lesson.