

F-LE US Population 1982-1988

Task

The below table provides some U.S. Population data from 1982 to 1988:

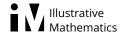
U.S. Population 1982 - 1988

Year	Population (in thousands)	Opulation 1982 – 1988 Change in Population (in thousands)
1982	231,664	
1983	233,792	233,792 - 231,664 = 2,128
1984	235,825	2,033
1985	237,924	2,099
1986	240,133	2,209
1987	242,289	2,156
1988	244,499	2,210

Notice: The change in population from 1982 to 1983 is 2,128,000, which is recorded in thousands in the first row of the 3rd column. The other changes are computed similarly. All population numbers in the table are recorded in thousands.

Source: http://www.census.gov/popest/archives/1990s/popclockest.txt

a. If we were to model the relationship between the U.S. population and the year, would a linear function be appropriate? Explain why or why not.



b. Mike decides to use a linear function to model the relationship. He chooses 2,139, the average of the values in the 3rd column, for the slope. What meaning does this value have in the context of this model?

c. Use Mike's model to predict the U.S. population in 1992.



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