
In the early 1990s, after hearing a story about Madonna's "Material Girl" song, photojournalist Peter Menzel had a vision: Rather than take viewers into the mansions of the rich or the "cribs" of MTV celebrities, he wanted to capture the material life of average families around the globe. His resulting book, *Material World*, offers extraordinary images of families in front of their dwellings with all (or nearly all) of their possessions.

Experts at the United Nations and World Bank helped determine the criteria for average families according to location (urban, rural, suburban, small town, or village), type of dwelling, family size, annual income, occupation, and religion.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____ Log #: _____

Material World Activity

Using the book, *Material World: A Global Family Portrait*, answer the following questions about your assigned family.

1. In what country does your family live? _____
2. How many people live in this household.
Adults (18 and older): _____ Children: _____ Total #: _____
3. First Impressions: Look at you family's profile. Read the photographer notes, country information, and family statistics. What are some of your first impressions of this family? _____

4. Briefly describe the family's home: _____

5. What is missing from [this pictures](#) (what things would you expect to see, but don't)? _____

6. Does this family have electricity? _____ Evidence: _____
7. Does this family have running water? _____ Evidence: _____
8. Does each child have his/her own bed to sleep in? _____ Evidence: _____
9. Do the children have toys to play with? _____ Evidence: _____
10. What is the family pet? _____ Evidence: _____
11. This family is an average family for their country. In your opinion, is this country a rich or poor country? Explain. _____

Comparison to the US:

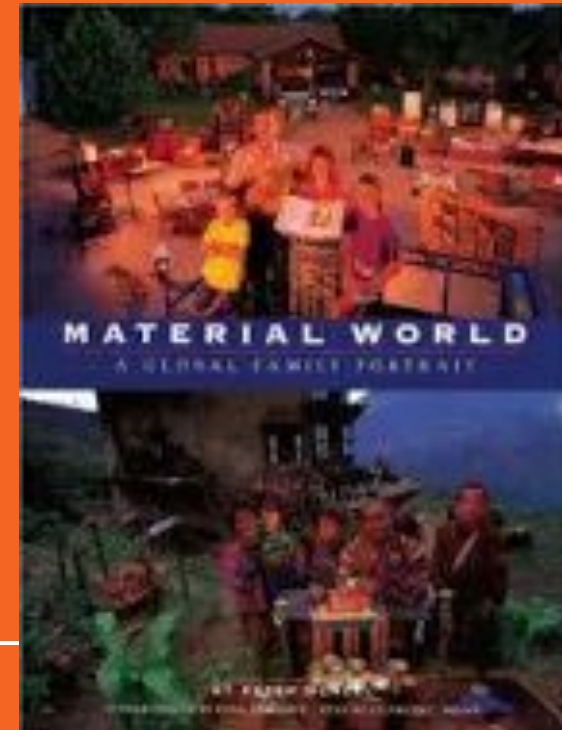
12. Look at the profile of the family in the United States on pg 136. Read the photographer's notes, country information, and family statistics. What are some of your first impressions? _____

Use the chart on pg 248 to answer the following questions.

13. Affluence deals with how well off or wealthy something/someone is. Look at the Rank of Affluence column (last column on the right). Where does the U.S. rank? _____ Where does your country [rank?](#) _____
14. Fertility rate is the average number of children per woman. What is the fertility rate in the U.S.? _____ What is the fertility rate in your country? _____
15. Infant mortality rate is the number of children that die before the age of 1 per every 1000 births. For example – an infant mortality of 8 would mean that 8 out of every 1000 children die before their first birthday. What is the infant mortality rate in the U.S.? _____ In your country? _____
16. Life expectancy is the average length of life. What is the life expectancy in the U.S.? _____ In your country? _____
17. Population per physician is the number of people for every one doctor. What is the population per physician in the U.S.? _____ In your country? _____
18. Find the Mean years of school for people aged 25+. The stat is given in years with females first then males. What is the mean years of school for fem/males in the US? _____ / _____ For your country? _____ / _____
19. Adult literacy rate is the percentage of people that can read and write. The stat is given in years with females first then males. What is the adult literacy rate in the US? _____ / _____ For your country? _____ / _____
20. Why do think the numbers for questions 18 and 19 might be different for males and females? _____

21. Per capita income is the amount of money each citizen would receive if the early national income of a country were divided up evenly among everyone in the country. Figures are given in US dollars. What is the per capita income in the US? _____ What is the per capita income of your country? _____

Use the table of contents to select a country (other than the US) to focus on for this activity. This will be referred to as “your” country/family/etc throughout the activity.



- ★ Carefully follow the directions on the worksheet to complete the activity. If you finish you can keep exploring the book.
- ★ Turn the worksheet into the mailbox so you get credit for your work!
- ★ If you finish early, you can study for tomorrow's Religions Quiz!