

Comparing Standards of Living

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will compare economic data between two countries to understand differences in standard of living.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Internet-connected device or provided data sheet
- paper
- ruler
- colored pencils
- graph paper (optional)

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Choose two countries to compare (can reuse ones from Week 3) and look up three data points for each: GDP per capita, average life expectancy, and literacy rate (or internet access rate).
2. Record all six numbers (three per country) in a clearly labeled table.
3. Create a simple bar graph comparing the two countries side-by-side for each of the three data categories (three pairs of bars total).
4. Color-code the two countries consistently across the whole graph and add a title and labeled axes.
5. Write a short paragraph interpreting what the data suggests about the standard of living in each country, and any factors that might explain the differences.

QUESTIONS

1. **What two countries did you compare, and what were their GDP per capita figures?**
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2. **What is GDP per capita, and why is it used as a measure of a country's standard of living?**
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3. **What did your data show about life expectancy or literacy rate between the two countries, and what might explain that difference?**

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- 4. Why is it important to look at multiple data points (not just GDP) when comparing standard of living between countries?**
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