

TEACHING ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

CONTRASTING ECONOMIES

This guide is designed to give you a framework you can use with students to examine any culture's economy. It focuses on HUMAN CAPITAL--the skills and knowledge that people need to have to be productive in that culture.

You are to study two different cultures:

- >Ancient Egypt
- >The Northwest Coast

They have very different kinds of environments. Yet in both cultures you will see that there was substantial investment (the use of current resources for future development) in spiritual development areas--in religion.

This material was developed by the DePaul Center for Economic Education for the course Teaching Economic Geography. ©1990

OBJECTS, JOBS, EDUCATION--ANCIENT EGYPT

"Read" the objects--what do they tell about the work people do. Then interpret your findings--what do those jobs imply about what children need to learn. (You can use this same approach to help your students learn about another culture or their own.)

OBJECT	WORK PEOPLE DO	WHAT CHILDREN LEARN
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OBJECTS-VALUES-EDUCATION--ANCIENT EGYPT

Objects also represent values. That people take time and other resources to make them indicates that these are important to them. Just as you did with jobs, "read" and interpret objects--this time in terms of the values of a culture.

OBJECT VALUES PEOPLE HAVE WHAT CHILDREN LEARN

CAUTION:

BEWARE OF GENERALIZATIONS. Remember that each object has many different interpretations. Also, even if an object does represent values of some individuals within a culture, there may be other individuals with very different values.

What differences do you think would have existed among different individuals within this culture?

OBJECTS, JOBS, EDUCATION--NORTHWEST COAST

"Read" the objects--what do they tell about the work people do. Then interpret your findings--what do those jobs imply about what children need to learn. (You can use this same approach to help your students learn about another culture or their own.)

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OBJECTS-VALUES-EDUCATION--NORTHWEST COAST

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OBJECT	VALUES PEOPLE HAVE	WHAT CHILDREN LEARN
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DIVERSITY WITHIN A CULTURE

What differences do you think would have existed among different individuals within this culture?

CHICAGO CONNECTION

Your students can set up their own exhibits on cultures. They can represent any culture they study. Be sure that they really research the culture to make sure that they see more than the surface--and the stereotypes.

Classroom Exhibit Plan

Topics to Research:

Teams/Pairs of Students:

Jobs:

Other Project Organization: