

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 guide is adaptable to other cultures that students can study in museum exhibits, books, and today's newspaper.

CHICAGO CONNECTION

Your students can set up their own exhibits on Chicago's economy—using the same charts. They can contrast Chicago now and in the past. They also can continue to research and profile other cultures.

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 Draw or Name it	WORK PEOPLE DO Infer It	WHAT CHILDREN LEARN Infer It

OBJECTS-VALUES-CULTURE--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 Draw or Name it	VALUE OF THE CULTURE Infer It	WHAT PARENTS PROBABLY TOLD THEIR CHILDREN ABOUT THIS VALUE Infer It

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.)

OBJECT Draw or Name it	WORK PEOPLE DO Infer It	WHAT CHILDREN LEARN Infer It

OBJECTS-VALUES-EDUCATION--NORTHWEST COAST

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