

Group Worksheet: Income Levels and Social Class

1. Graph the mean income for each 1/5 of the population in 1997 and 1967.
Which type of graph did you choose bar, line or pie? Why?
2. Did each group receive the same increase in income between 1967 and 1997?
Find the \$ increase for each 1/5 of the population from 1967 to 1997.
Find the % increase for each 1/5 of the population from 1967 to 1997.
3. Did the gap between the average income for the lowest fifth and the highest fifth stay constant between 1967 and 1997? What is the difference?
What % times the average income of the lowest fifth equals the income of the highest fifth?
What do you think some of the reasons for the change are?
What do you think the trend will be in the next thirty years? Why?
4. What share (%) of the aggregate income received in 1997 was received by each fifth of the families? In 1967?
What changes do you notice?
5. Instead of equal groupings of population, look at the number (or percent) of people in each income bracket (1/5 grouping) so that each 1/5 now contains 1/5 of the aggregate income.
6. Why are all of these numbers reported in 1997 dollars?
What do you think the difference with earning \$30,000 in 1997 and 1967 is?
Is \$30,000 always worth the same amount?
Does a car cost the same today as 10 years ago? A house? A gallon of milk?
Are prices the same across the country?