



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

## Graph and Chart Skills

### Reading a Table

A table presents information in columns (up and down) and rows (across). It allows you to make comparisons and to analyze the information presented. A table is an efficient way of presenting information that lends itself to analysis. The table below presents population data for four countries in Central America.

**Directions:** Study the table, and then answer the questions that follow.

Population Data for Four Central American Countries				
	Costa Rica	Panama	Honduras	Guatemala
Literacy Rate	93%	88%	73%	55%
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)	10	16	43	52
Life Expectancy				
Males	76	73	66	62
Females	80	78	71	68
Workers in Agriculture	27%	27%	62%	60%

Source: *World Almanac and Book of Facts, 1996.*

1. What information is shown in the table?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the infant mortality rates in Honduras and Guatemala?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In what way are the life expectancy data for all countries shown similar?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What relationship between literacy rate and infant mortality rate does this table suggest?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Identify another relationship from studying the data in the table.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Which country shown has the highest standard of living? Give reasons for your choice.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## Graph and Chart Skills

### Analyzing Statistics

Social scientists use many different kinds of statistics to describe the characteristics of a region or a country. Such statistics are efficient ways of providing information, and they enable you to make quick comparisons. Some of the most commonly used statistics are described below.

**Directions:** Study the definitions, and then complete the activities.

**Birthrate.** This rate reflects the number of live births each year for each 1,000 people. A birthrate of 36 means that for every 1,000 people, 36 babies are born each year.

**Death Rate.** This rate means the number of deaths each year for every 1,000 people.

**Rate of Natural Increase.** This number tells the rate by which a population is growing: the birthrate minus the death rate, expressed as a percentage.

**Infant Mortality Rate.** This rate shows the number of infants out of every 1,000 born who die before their first birthday.

**Life Expectancy.** This figure is the average number of years a person is expected to live. Because men and women have different life expectancies, figures for both genders are often provided.

**Literacy Rate.** This rate is usually defined as the ability to read and write at the lower elementary school level. It is sometimes defined as the ability to read instructions necessary for a job.

**Gross National Product (GNP).** This number represents the total value of goods and services produced in a year.

**Per Capita GNP.** To find this figure, gross national product is divided by the country's population. This figure shows what each person's income would be if the country's income were divided equally. That is not usually the case.

1. Choose three countries that interest you, and find the statistics for each, as listed above. You will find the statistics you need in an almanac.
2. Prepare a table that will enable you to compare the statistics you find.
3. Write a brief description of your findings on the lines below.

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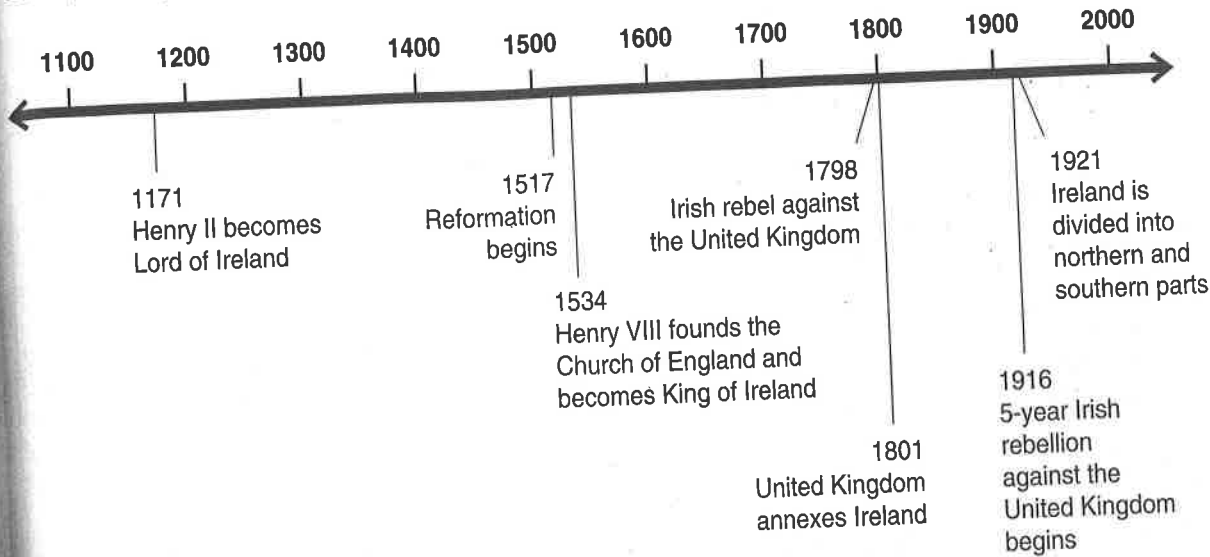


## Graph and Chart Skills

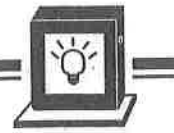
### Reading a Time Line

A time line shows the order in which events occur and the length of time between them. The time line below shows events in the United Kingdom that were significant to the division of Ireland.

**Directions:** Study the time line, and answer the questions that follow. Then, draw your own time line.



1. When did the Reformation begin? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many years after that did Henry VIII establish the Church of England?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How many years passed between the United Kingdom's annexation of Ireland and the division of Ireland into two parts? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What event on the time line led to the division of Ireland into two parts?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. On a separate sheet, draw a time line to illustrate significant events in the history of space exploration. Start with 1961, the year the first human flew in space, and extend the time line to the present day. Use an almanac to find dates and events. Then, select the most significant ones for your time line.  
What does your time line tell you about space exploration?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Recognizing Bias

To evaluate what you are reading, you need to be able to recognize bias. Biased descriptions present only one point of view. To recognize bias, ask yourself if the writer makes assumptions that are not justified. Charlie Pye-Smith is a British writer who realized how biased some history books had been. The selection below is from his book *The Other Nile*, published in 1986.

**Directions:** Read the selection below. Then, answer the questions that follow.

There was a recent copy of the *Egyptian Gazette* in my hotel room. I skimmed through it . . . and my attention was caught by an item of news which came from one of the gulf emirates [territories governed by an Arabian prince] . . . that the ruler had selected a group of eminent [outstanding] historians to rewrite his country's history. Their task was to rectify [correct] the "errors" made by previous histories. . . .

At first this all struck me as farcical [absurd]. Yet when I thought of the books which I had pored over [studied] as a child, books about Africa and explorers, I realized that this ruler was following in the noble tradition of the Victorian [nineteenth-century English] historians, whose interpretation of the events in Africa was outstanding more for its racial bigotry, its presumption of white superiority, and its [lack of interest] in the fate of Africans, than for any erudition [scholarship] or accuracy in recounting what really happened out here. I grew up thinking of the Nile simply as a geographical conundrum [puzzling

problem] . . . and the heroes of my books were men like Baker, Speke, Stanley, Livingstone, and Burton [English explorers of the Nile River and its sources]. It was Speke, as far as my histories were concerned, who had discovered the source of the Nile—no mention was made of the Arabs who for centuries had known where it was (near Lake Victoria), let alone the Africans who actually lived there. This history, written by Europeans and for Europeans, had a certain flavour of romance to it when I was young. Now it bores me profoundly, since the main characters are interesting not for their vision of what might have become in Africa (few had any), but only for their idiosyncrasies [behavioral peculiarities]. . . . [F]or the most part these explorers—there were exceptions like Livingstone—went to Africa for self-aggrandizement [to increase their own power, rank, or honor] and for whatever kudos [praise] they could attract by their adventure.

From *The Other Nile* by Charlie Pye-Smith. Published by Penguin Books Ltd. Copyright © Charlie Pye-Smith 1986.

1. What is the author's criticism of the Victorian historians who wrote books about Africa and the explorers of the Nile?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How does the author view most of the Europeans who explored the Nile River?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. According to Charlie Pye-Smith, why are some historians, such as the Victorian historians he cites, inaccurate in their interpretation of events and unable to recount "what really happened out here"?  
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## Map and Globe Skills

### Reading a Political Map

A political map shows political features such as national or state boundaries, capital cities and other major cities. Some political maps use color to differentiate countries or states. The map of Western Europe below is an example of a political map.

**Directions:** Study the map and the key below. Then, answer the questions that follow.



1. What does a solid black line on the map signify? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which nations of Western Europe border on the Mediterranean Sea?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. List the nations that share a border with Switzerland.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the capital of Spain? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the capital of Germany? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which country lies closest to the North African coast? \_\_\_\_\_