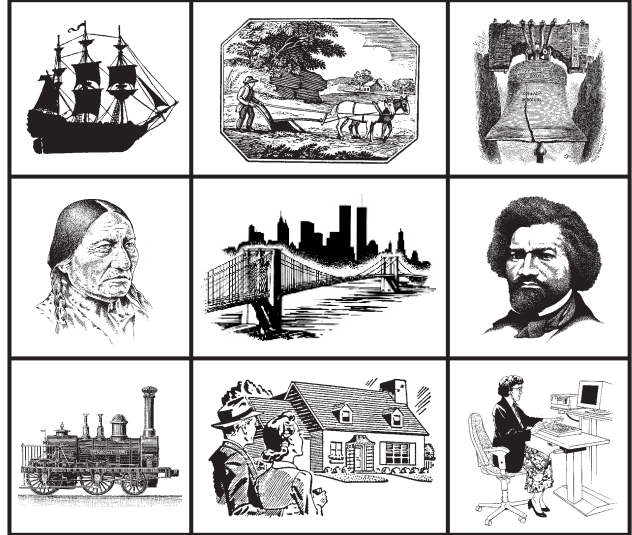

Fasttrack to America's Past

Age of Discovery to Present 7th Edition



An interactive learning guide for students of U.S. History

by David Burns

Section 8: The Wonder Years 1950 - 2000

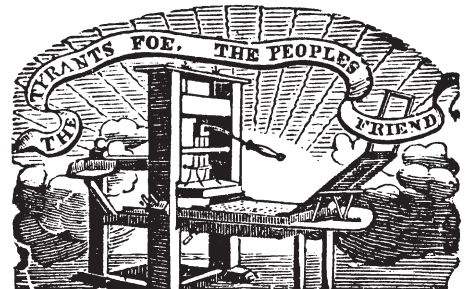


The Teacher Key and additional resources to use with these pages are at:

www.fasttrackteaching.com/ftap7

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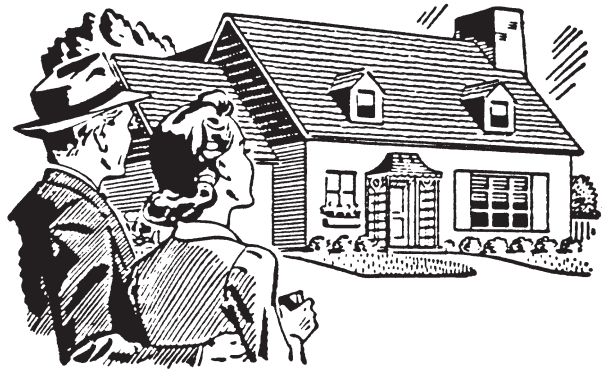
8

The Wonder Years: 1950 - 2000



“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.’”

“I am woman, hear me roar!”



*“That’s one small step for a man,
one giant leap for mankind.”*



“After these four decades, then, there stands before the entire world one great and inescapable conclusion: Freedom leads to prosperity. Freedom replaces the ancient hatreds among the nations with comity and peace. Freedom is the victor.”

Study Checklist

When you have completed this section, you should be able to:



Identify and explain the context of the **Famous Quotes** shown on the Section Title Page.



Identify and explain the importance of the **Famous Names and Terms** listed on the topic summary pages in this section.



Identify on a map and explain the importance of the **Famous Places** shown on the maps in this section.



Explain the general sequence of events in this period and tell from memory the **Famous Years**:

- The Supreme Court ruled segregation illegal in public schools (**1954**).
- John F. Kennedy was elected president (**1960**).
- The first Americans landed on the moon (**1969**).
- Ronald Reagan was elected president (**1980**).

Take a Practice Test!



A multiple-choice practice test for this section can be found on the Internet support site.

Textbook Page References:



Discuss or write briefly on such questions and topics as these:

- 1. How did the Cold War affect American life in this period? How did it affect American involvement in conflicts in other parts of the world?*
- 2. Rev. Martin Luther King said the Civil Rights movement was “deeply rooted in the American Dream.” What did he mean by that? Explain his strategy of “non-violent civil disobedience.”*
- 3. What approach did liberals like President Lyndon Johnson take in the 1960s to reduce poverty in America? What approach did conservatives like President Ronald Reagan favor in the 1980s to improve life for the poor?*
- 4. What have been some of the big changes in American life, including family life, as a result of the Women’s Liberation movement of the 1960s and 1970s?*
- 5. Explain why the United States became an increasingly multicultural society in this period. What benefits and what challenges did this bring?*
- 6. What does it mean to say that America become part of an increasingly global economy in this period?*

Timeline 1950 - 2000

As you study the timeline, fill in the blanks using the word bank at the bottom of the page.

Korean War begins - We went in mainly to stop the spread of _____.

Brown v. Board of Ed. - This important case made segregated public schools _____.

Sputnik in space - This first successful satellite was launched by _____.

Vietnam conflict growing - Within a few years U.S. involvement became very _____.

Cuban Missile Crisis - For a while, _____ war seemed a real possibility.

March on Washington - Rev. King gave his famous "I Have a _____" speech.

Civil Rights Act of 1964 - It outlawed _____ in public places.

First moon landing - For a brief moment, it _____ all Americans, in spite of deep divisions over the Vietnam War and other issues of the decade.

Nixon resigns - It all started with a break-in at the _____ office building.

South Vietnam falls - American troops had been withdrawn about _____ years earlier.

Apple Computer I introduced - This box of digital electronics showed the way for the rise of the new industry of _____ computers.

IBM PC introduced - This personal computer spread rapidly in _____ offices, and within ten years became common in many homes.

AIDS officially identified - The disease weakens the body's _____ system.

Berlin Wall torn down - It was a sure sign that the _____ War was finally ending.

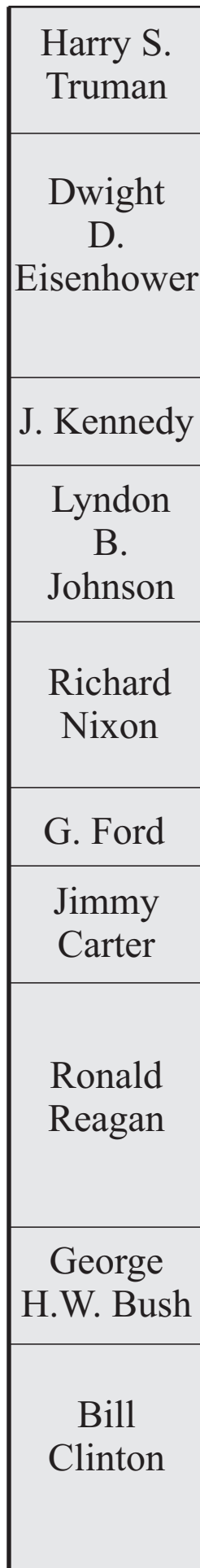
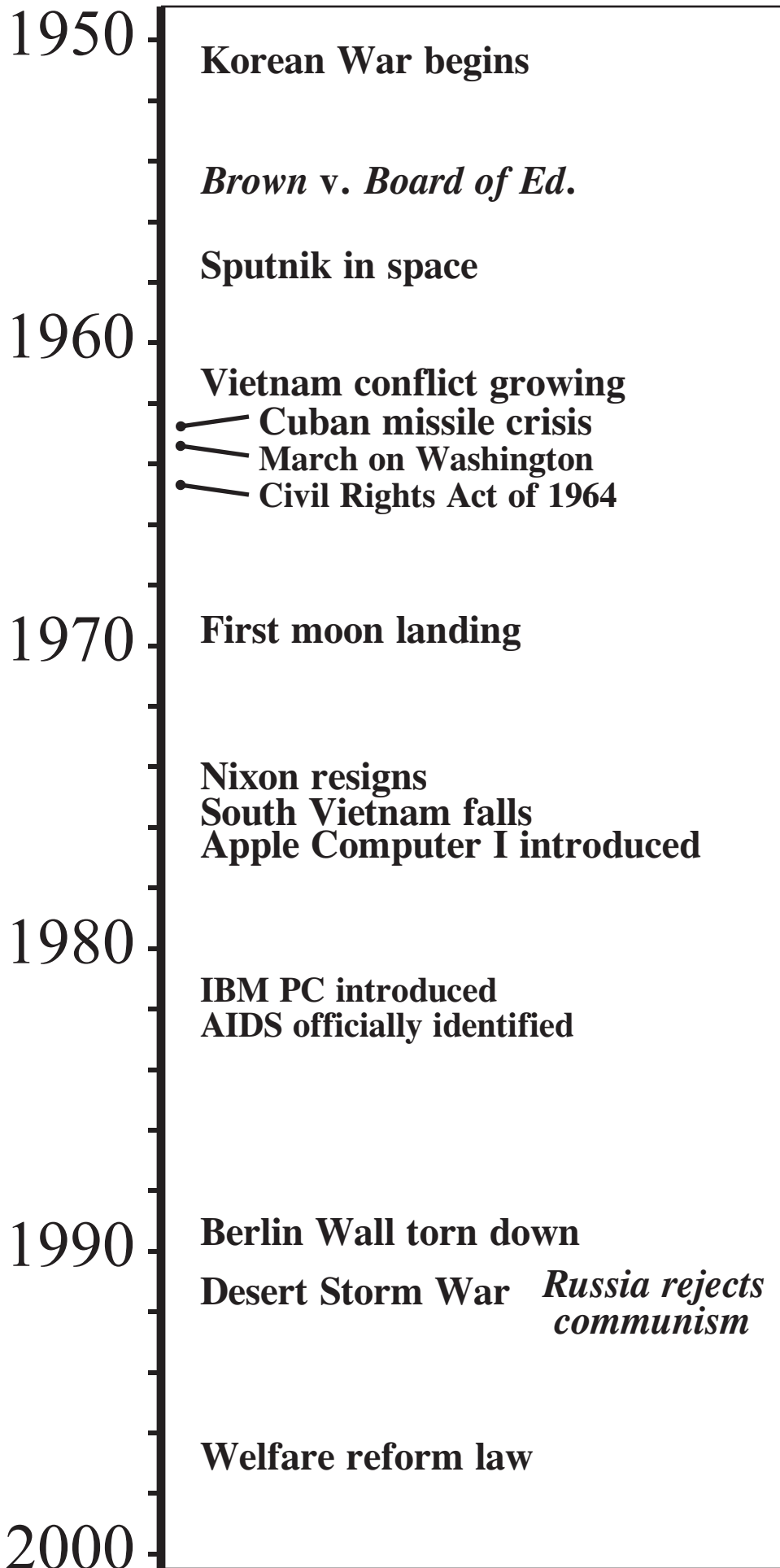
Desert Storm War - America went in to free _____ from occupation by Iraq.

Russia rejects communism - Russians could see their system was just not _____.

Welfare reform law - This plan won broad support from _____ political parties, and helped many poor people find jobs to support themselves.

Word bank to fill in the blanks: both, business, Cold, communism, discrimination, Dream, illegal, immune, Kuwait, large, nuclear, personal, Russia, two, united, Watergate, working

TIMELINE: THE WONDER YEARS



DECADE: 1950s POST WAR PROSPERITY

McCarthyism, Korean War, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Levittown, baby boom, *Brown v. Board of Education*, Rosa Parks, integration, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., civil disobedience, Sputnik, Intercontinental Ballistic Missile, Elvis Presley

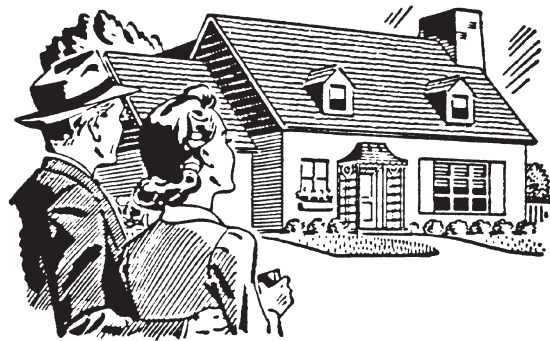


The end of World War II in 1945 left America clearly in the position of world leader. It also left Russia and the rest of the Soviet Union in a good position to spread its political/economic system of communism. Few doubted that it intended to do so.

China and North Korea became communist after the war ended. In 1950 North Korea, helped by China and the Soviet Union, invaded South Korea. The U.S. sent troops to help South Korea defend itself. It was one hot spot in the Cold War, the common term for the struggle between the Soviet Union and the United States for dominance in the decades after 1945.

One aspect of the struggle surfaced in a scare that many communists secretly held positions in the U.S. government and the film industry. Senator Joseph McCarthy created a climate of fear and suspicion for several years by promoting such claims. Some of his accusations were valid, but others were exposed as wildly exaggerated. The term “McCarthyism” was coined by his critics to describe the tactic of spreading suspicion for political gain.

During this decade great social changes were underway in America. One sign was the spread of huge new suburban housing developments like one in Levittown, New York. The home buyers included millions of young married couples who were starting families after World War II ended. Their children would later be called the baby boom generation. Some people complained that life in the suburbs was dull, and put too much emphasis on conformity. But for most families a home of their own seemed a big step up in the American Dream.



The work place was also changing. The white collar office worker became much more commonplace as big corporations continued to grow. The hard times of the Great Depression and the war years were almost forgotten. “Keeping up with the Joneses” next door became the challenge for many people. Economic growth and strong labor unions helped boost even most factory workers into the solid middle class.

The spread of the middle class lifestyle only highlighted the fact that most African Americans were not enjoying a full share of the new prosperity. Americans of all races had

helped defeat a monstrous system in Europe that preached racial superiority. How, many people asked themselves, could America continue to allow racial segregation here? But it was here, as “Whites Only” signs and segregated schools made obvious. In this decade the Civil Rights Movement geared up to directly challenge this widely accepted pattern.



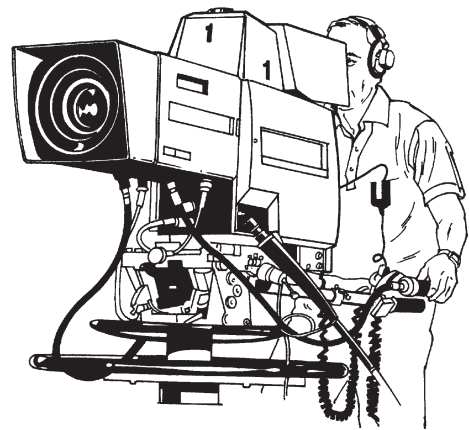
Some victories came in the courts, such as the case of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, in 1954. This Supreme Court decision declared racially segregated public schools illegal. Other victories came as courageous Southern blacks, including women like Rosa Parks, refused to continue taking seats “in the back of the bus.”

Most whites knew segregation wasn't right. But many feared that racial integration would bring crime to their neighborhoods and trouble to schools. Cultural differences expressed in behavior and lifestyle meant every step carried the risk of misunderstanding and resentment.

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. emerged as a leader by using the tactics of non-violent civil disobedience to appeal to white citizens' sense of the American ideals of justice and equality. Many whites supported the movement. Many others, however, resisted integration and claimed that the federal government had no right to force the issue. Some turned to hate and violence, as was seen in the integration of a high school in Little Rock, Arkansas. President Dwight D. Eisenhower showed he would use troops if necessary to enforce the law. Some schools were integrated in this decade, but resistance in many areas often delayed the effort well into the 1960s.

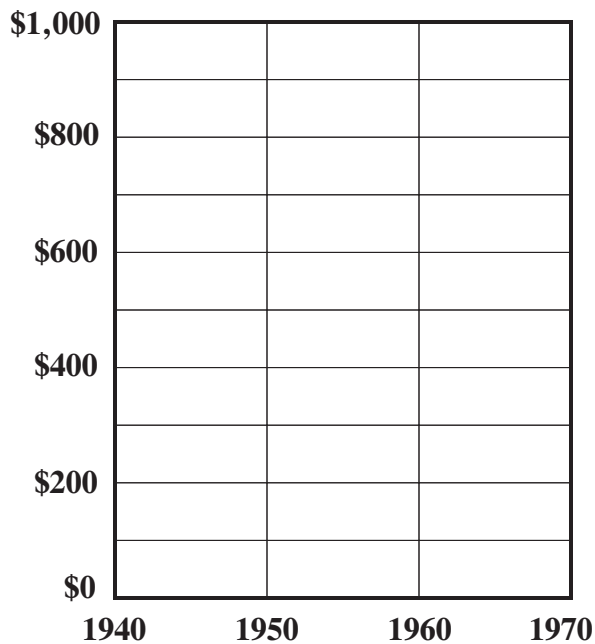
These were also years of great scientific and medical advances. UNIVAC, an early digital computer made for business use, became a familiar name. A vaccine to stop polio was developed. But the launch in Russia of Sputnik, the first space satellite, caused America embarrassment. Rivalry with the Soviet Union intensified. Schools beefed up instruction in math and science, and education generally became a bigger priority. The space race was on, alongside a far more dangerous arms race. The hydrogen bomb was one of the frightening new atomic weapons that could be hurled across the world on jet bombers, and later, on rockets called Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles.

Through it all, the great change in entertainment was the spread of television sets into millions of American homes. Popular music was also changing. A new style called rock and roll grew as the first of the baby-boomers reached their teenage years. Its best known performer in this decade was Elvis Presley.

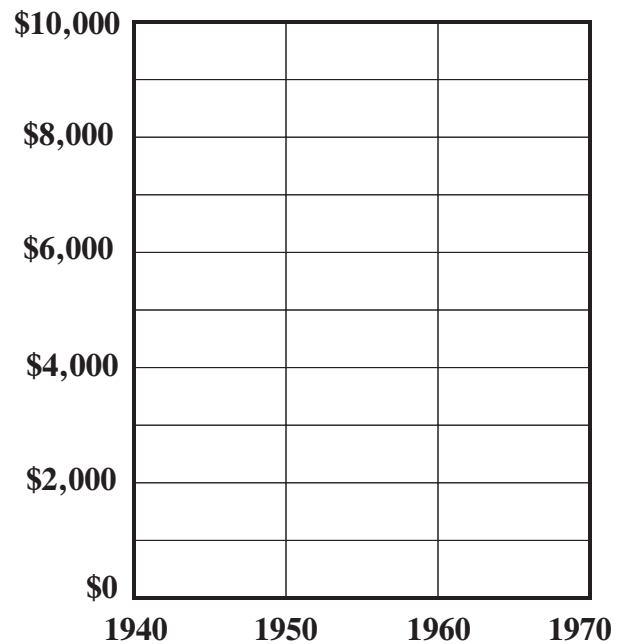


CHARTING THE AFFLUENT SOCIETY

Finish the line graphs below to chart the growth of the economy in these years. Poverty did not vanish, but most Americans shared in a solid prosperity that one writer described with the phrase, "The Affluent Society." The gross national product (GNP) measures the total dollar value of all the goods and services a nation produces in a year.



**Gross National Product
(Billions of Dollars)
1940 to 1970**



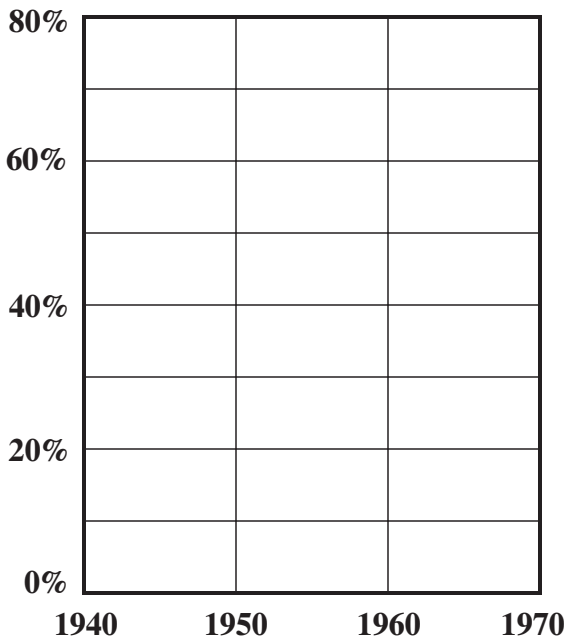
**Average Factory Wages
(Dollars per Year)
1940 to 1970**

Use the table below to find the information to make the line graphs above.

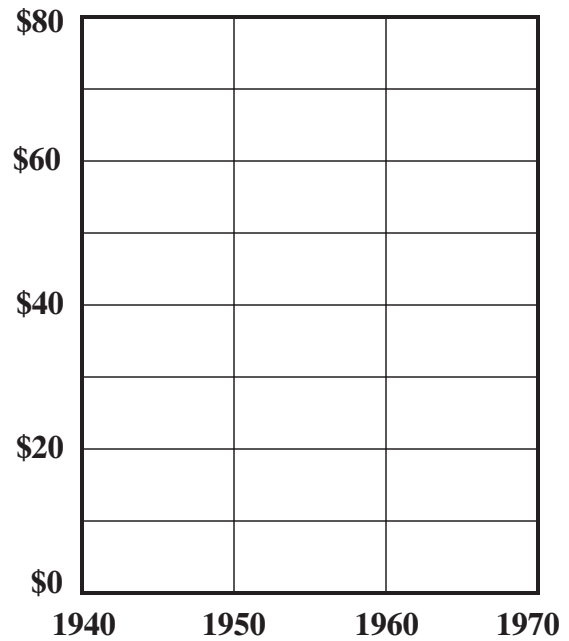
Year	Gross National Product (Billions of Dollars)	Average Factory Wages (Dollars per Year)
1940	99.7	1,432
1950	285	3,302
1960	504	5,352
1970	977	8,150

source: *Historical Statistics of the United States*

Finish the line graphs below to show more signs of the growing prosperity of this period. The home ownership rate measures the percent of American families that own their own home. Do you think figures like these are a valid way to measure whether or not citizens were achieving “The American Dream” in these decades?



**Home Ownership Rate
(Percent)
1940 to 1970**



**Purchases of Clothing,
Accessories, and Jewelry
(Billions of Dollars)
1940 to 1970**

Use the table below to find the information to make the line graphs above.

Year	Home Ownership Rate (Percent)	Purchases of Clothing, Accessories, and Jewelry (Billions of Dollars)
1940	43.6	8.9
1950	55	23.7
1960	61.9	33
1970	62.4	62.8

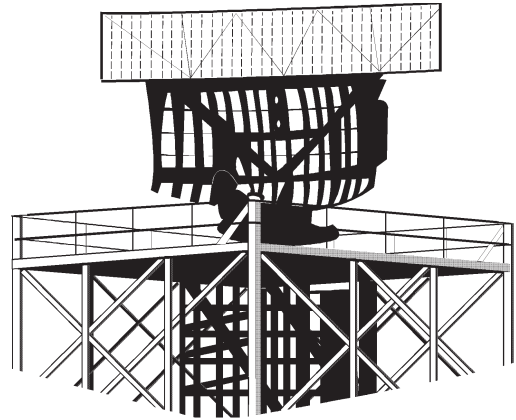
source: *Historical Statistics of the United States*

MAP - COLD WAR ALLIANCES

Finish the map as directed on this page, and fill in the blanks using the word bank below.

THE SUPERPOWERS

United States - The U.S. emerged from World War II determined to continue protecting the principles of _____. At the center of this system is the individual citizen, with broad rights to pursue his or her own personal and political goals. These rights include freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and property ownership. All of these were restricted or forbidden in communist societies as unnecessary and _____.



Russia / U.S.S.R. - The Soviet Union and its largest component, Russia, emerged from World War II determined to protect itself from any future attacks. It was also determined to _____ the system of communism. At the center of this system stood the Communist Party leaders, with wide powers to dictate what citizens could and could not do. Communists claimed that only their system could create true equality, because the central government planned and directed the entire economy. The government provided housing, _____, and medical care for all. The constant shortages of food, badly made products, and the lack of basic freedoms, however, were all proof that the system was just not working.



ALLIANCES OF THE COLD WAR ERA

Use green shading to show the U.S. and its allies, and red shading to show the communist nations. The non-aligned nations are already shown in gray color.

U.S. Allies - The most important allies of the United States during the Cold War were Canada and the nations of Western Europe that were part of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization.) Japan was another strong ally, and the list includes many other countries such as Australia and New Zealand. South Korea and South Vietnam were allies as well. The U.S. still has troops stationed in South Korea. The U.S. fought for many years to defend South Vietnam, but _____ its troops from that country in 1973.

Communist Nations - After World War II ended, the Soviet Union forced the Eastern European countries near its borders to accept communist governments. These buffer or “satellite” nations, such as Poland and East Germany, took their orders from _____. They were later formed into an alliance called the Warsaw Pact. China became communist in 1949 in a revolution led by Mao Zedong. Cuba became communist in 1960 under Fidel Castro. South Vietnam was taken over by communist North Vietnam in 1975.

Word bank to fill in the blanks: *dangerous, democracy, jobs, Russia, spread, withdrew*



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Cold War Alliances

Pattern of 1950s and 1960s shown

Key to Alliances

The U.S. and its Allies

Communist Nations

Non-aligned Nations



EISENHOWER ON THE ISSUES OF THE 1950s

President Dwight D. Eisenhower supported a strong military to counter the growing strength of the Soviet Union. But he also warned that both sides were being hurt by the expense of the Cold War. This is a condensed selection from a famous speech after the death in 1953 of Joseph Stalin, the leader of the Soviet Union.

The Chance for Peace

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.



The world in arms is not spending money alone.

It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children.

The cost of one modern heavy bomber is this: a modern brick school in more than 30 cities.

It is two electric power plants, each serving a town of 60,000 population.

It is two fine, fully equipped hospitals.

It is some 50 miles of concrete highway.

We pay for a single fighter plane with a half million bushels of wheat.

We pay for a single destroyer with new homes that could have housed more than 8,000 people.

This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.

These plain and cruel truths define the peril and point the hope that comes with this spring

of 1953.

The world knows that an era has ended with the death of [the Soviet Union's leader] Joseph Stalin.

The new Soviet leadership now has a precious opportunity to awaken, with the rest of the world, to the point of peril reached, and to help turn the tide of history.

The peace we seek, founded upon decent trust and cooperative effort among nations, can be fortified, not by weapons of war, but by wheat and by cotton, by milk and by wool, by meat and timber and rice. These are the words that translate into every language on earth. These are the needs that challenge this world in arms.

We are prepared to reaffirm, with the most concrete evidence, our readiness to help build a world in which all peoples can be productive and prosperous. We are ready, in short, to dedicate our strength to serving the needs, rather than the fears, of the world.

Group Discussion: *What does President Eisenhower say is the real cost of the Cold War? What does he want both the U.S. and the Soviet Union to do?*

* * *

As schools opened in 1957, President Eisenhower stepped in to resolve a crisis in Little Rock, Arkansas, over the integration of public schools. These are condensed excerpts from his address to the nation explaining the action he was taking.

School Integration in Little Rock

For a few minutes this evening I want to speak to you about the serious situation that has arisen in Little Rock.

In that city, disorderly mobs have deliberately prevented the carrying out of proper orders from a federal court.

This morning the mob again gathered in front of the Central High School of Little Rock, obviously for the purpose of again preventing the carrying out of the court's order relating to the admission of Negro children to that school.

I have today issued an Executive Order directing the use of troops under federal authority to aid in the execution [enforcement] of federal law at Little Rock, Arkansas.

It is important that the reasons for my action be understood by all our citizens. As you know, the Supreme Court of the United States has decided that separate public educational facilities for the races are inherently unequal and therefore compulsory school segregation laws are unconstitutional.

Our personal opinions about the decision have no bearing on the matter of enforcement. The responsibility and authority of the Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution are very clear.

During the past several years, many communities in our Southern states have instituted public school plans for gradual progress in the enrollment and attendance of school children of all races in order to bring themselves into compliance with the law of the land.

They thus demonstrated to the world that we are a nation in which laws, not men, are supreme.

I regret to say that this truth, the cornerstone of our liberties, was not observed in this instance.

Certain misguided persons, many of them imported into Little Rock by agitators, have insisted upon defying the law and have sought to bring it into disrepute. The orders of the court have thus been frustrated.

The very basis of our individual rights and freedoms rests upon the certainty that the president and the executive branch of government will support and insure the carrying out of the decisions of the federal courts.

Mob rule cannot be allowed to override the decisions of our courts.



From intimate personal knowledge, I know that the overwhelming majority of the people in the South – including those of Arkansas and Little Rock – are of good will, united in their efforts to preserve and respect the law even when they disagree with it.

And so, with deep confidence, I call upon the citizens of the State of Arkansas to assist in bringing to an immediate end all interference with the law and its processes.

If resistance to the federal court orders ceases at once, the further presence of federal troops will be unnecessary and the city of Little Rock will return to its normal habits of peace and order, and a blot on the fair name and high honor of our nation in the world will be removed.

Thus will be restored the image of America and of all its parts as one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Group Discussion: *What does President Eisenhower say was blocking efforts by black children to attend Central High School in Little Rock? What was his response as president to try to resolve the situation? What key principle of government did he say was at stake?*

MAP - CIVIL RIGHTS HOT SPOTS

Label and color the map to show the states where these events occurred. Fill in the blanks using the word bank at the bottom of the page.

Topeka, Kansas, where a legal challenge by a black parent to segregated _____ schools led to the historic Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954.

Montgomery, Alabama, where Rosa Parks refused to take a seat “in the back of the bus.” Her action in 1955 helped launch a successful _____ boycott by black residents that directly challenged segregation.

Little Rock, Arkansas, where the governor of Arkansas tried to use that state’s National Guard troops to prevent black students from enrolling in a “white” high school. President Eisenhower put the troops under federal control and sent _____ to escort the black students to school. The year was 1957.

Greensboro, North Carolina, site of a famous “sit-in” in 1960 by four black college students at a lunch counter that had refused to serve blacks. The action prompted hundreds of other students, black and _____, to begin protests against restaurant segregation in other cities.

Jackson, Mississippi, one of many Southern cities where hundreds of black and white “Freedom Riders” traveled to challenge segregation in bus terminals in 1961. In some cities the protesters were attacked. Many were arrested in Jackson and spent that summer in _____.

Birmingham, Alabama, where a major

campaign led by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. against segregation made headlines in 1963. Pictures of police _____ and water hoses turned on the black protesters shocked the nation. But it was only the most famous of hundreds of protests that spread to scores of cities that year.



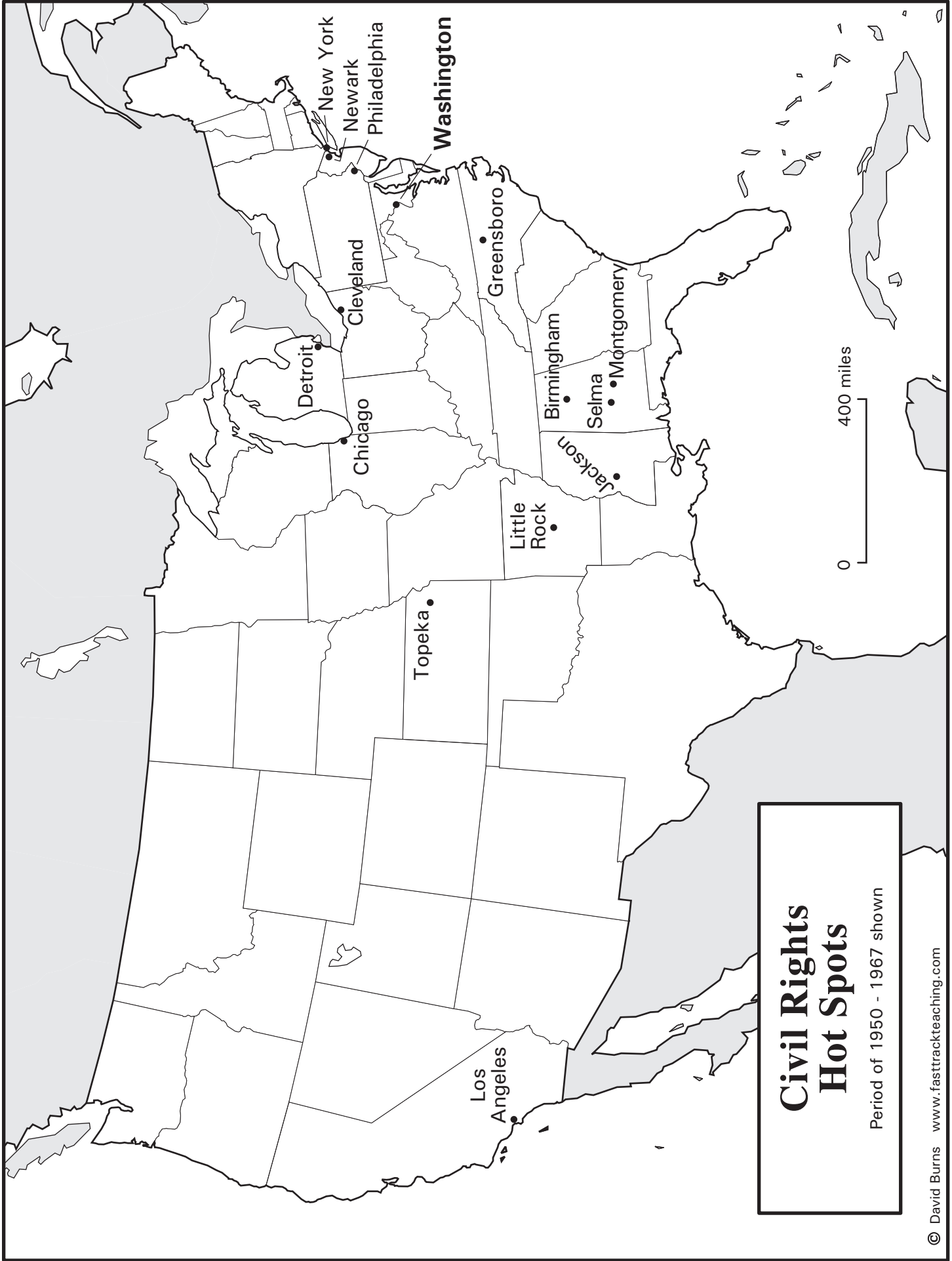
Washington, D.C., where the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom was held in August 1963. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous “I Have a _____” speech.

Selma, Alabama, starting point of a famous five day march to Montgomery in 1965. Thousands of people, white and black, joined the march in a show of _____ for the movement.

New York, the city where Malcolm X emerged as a militant critic of American race relations before he was _____ by black gunmen in 1965.

New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago were among the big cities where riots linked to racial issues erupted in the “long hot summer” of 1964. The next year, a deadly riot erupted in the Watts area of **Los Angeles**. **Cleveland** was among the big cities hit in 1966. In 1967 dozens of riots struck the country, with those in **Newark** and **Detroit** especially deadly. The pattern gave clear proof that race was not just a _____ issue.

Word bank to fill in the blanks: *bus, dogs, Dream, jail, killed, public, soldiers, support, white, Southern*



Civil Rights Hot Spots
Period of 1950 - 1967 shown

DECADE: 1960s NEW FRONTIERS

John F. Kennedy, Cuban Missile Crisis, March on Washington, Lyndon Johnson, War on Poverty, Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965, Vietnam War, Black Power movement, hippies, Women's Liberation, Richard Nixon, Apollo 11

As the 1960s began, two big issues were facing America: first, the Cold War policy of containment of communism, and second, the Civil Rights movement here at home.

John F. Kennedy, a Democrat, was elected in 1960. He projected an image that appealed to many Americans: youthful, educated, and idealistic. He called on Americans to pursue causes like racial equality and world peace. Events in this decade proved that neither goal would be easily achieved.



Cuba was the first big problem for JFK. Revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro, a communist, had taken over the island. Castro allowed the Soviet Union to build nuclear missile launchers in Cuba. In response, Kennedy ordered American ships to form a blockade around the island to stop any new missiles from being brought in. There was widespread fear that the incident might trigger a nuclear war. The Cuban Missile Crisis ended when Russia backed down and agreed to remove the weapons.

In another Cold War action, Kennedy sent a much larger number of military advisors to South Vietnam. The government there was desperately trying to fight off communist revolutionary fighters backed by North Vietnam.



Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, in 1963. Lyndon Johnson became president. He, too, was concerned with issues of civil rights and poverty. He proposed that Americans fight what he called a War on Poverty to build "The Great Society." His proposals led to a big expansion of government social programs. More money went into public housing projects, for example, and education programs for the poor were expanded.

President Johnson also pushed Congress for approval of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. That law is important because it generally prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, or sex. A year later he won passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was written to protect black citizens' voting rights.

The growing war in Vietnam was demanding more of the nation's attention and money. Johnson sent more troops to support South Vietnam. The total reached half a million. He hoped this would force North Vietnam to end the war. But critics in America denounced the new strategy and said it was only making the war bigger and more deadly than before.

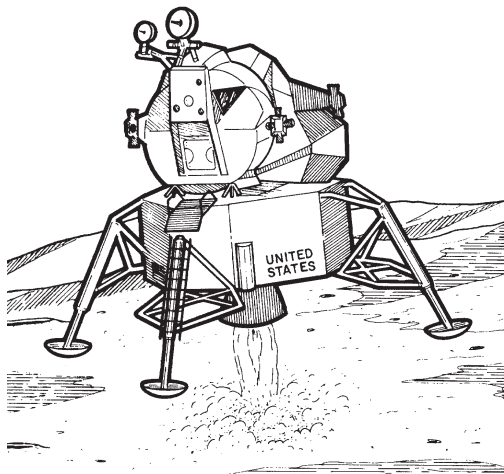
Meanwhile, a number of social issues were boiling in America. Riots broke out in black neighborhoods in many cities by the mid-1960s. The Black Power movement, led by people like Malcolm X, demanded a stronger voice for blacks in American life. Some in the movement were rejecting older civil rights leaders like Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., who had struggled to bring blacks and whites together with non-violent protests.



Another big issue was Women's Liberation. Its leaders, including Betty Friedan, called for an end to the customs and attitudes that still restricted women from some jobs, or set a double standard for behavior. The newly developed birth control pill and the mini-skirt became symbols of new attitudes toward sexuality. Some voices were asking what would happen as out-of-wedlock births, divorce, and fatherless homes increased, but few wanted to hear the answers.

In this decade the baby boom generation reached high school and college age. This large group of young people born after WW II tilted American culture in many ways. The wild hair, clothing, and music inspired by the hippie movement reflected this. "Do your own thing!" became almost a motto for the times. Parents often struggled to understand why their children seemed in open rebellion to society, when society had given them more advantages than any generation in history. On their side of the generation gap, many young people talked and sang songs about an America that sometimes fell short of its great ideals.

By the late 1960s opposition to the Vietnam war had grown so strong that President Johnson decided not to seek re-election. Many Americans felt society was spinning out of control, especially after the assassinations in 1968 of Rev. Martin Luther King and political candidate Robert Kennedy. Richard Nixon, a Republican who promised more emphasis on "law and order," won the 1968 election.



One pause in this turbulent but exciting time came as America landed astronauts on the moon in 1969. Neil Armstrong became the first man to leave a footprint on the lunar soil. People around the world watched the Apollo 11 mission on television, and Americans celebrated their pride as one nation.

As the decade drew to a close, however, the shouts of the many groups seeking to reshape American society showed conflict was going to stay on the American agenda. No end to the Vietnam war was in sight, and opponents of America's involvement were becoming more vocal than ever in their protests.

JOHN F. KENNEDY'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

John F. Kennedy is still remembered for the idealistic call he sounded in his 1961 inaugural address, condensed below.

Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans – born in this century, tempered



by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage – and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed.

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and success of liberty.

To those nations who would make themselves our adversary [enemy], we offer not a pledge but a request: that both sides begin anew the quest for peace, before the dark powers of destruction unleashed by science engulf all humanity in planned or accidental self-destruction.

We dare not tempt them with weakness. For only when our arms are sufficient beyond doubt can we be certain beyond doubt that they will never be used.

But neither can two great and powerful groups of nations take comfort from our present course.

Both sides are overburdened by the cost of modern weapons. Both are rightly alarmed

by the steady spread of the deadly atom, yet both are racing to alter that uncertain balance of terror that stays the hand of mankind's final war.

So let us begin anew.

Let both sides seek to invoke the wonders of science instead of its terrors. Together let us explore the stars, conquer the deserts, eradicate [eliminate] disease, tap the ocean depths, and encourage the arts and commerce.

Let both sides unite to heed in all corners of the earth the command of Isaiah [in the Bible] – to “undo the heavy burdens, and let the oppressed go free.”

All this will not be finished in the first 100 days, nor even perhaps in our lifetime on this planet. But let us begin.

Now the trumpet summons us again – not as a call to bear arms – but to a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself.

The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it – and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.

And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.

With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth, God's work must truly be our own.

Group Discussion: *What warning does Kennedy have about the dangers of the Cold War and arms race? What does he call on America's enemies and Americans themselves to do?*

LBJ CALLS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

This speech by President Lyndon Johnson (condensed here) was made in 1965 after a civil rights march at Selma, Alabama, was stopped by police.

I speak tonight for the dignity of man and the destiny of democracy.

At times history and fate meet at a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom. So it was last week in Selma, Alabama. There, long-suffering men and women peacefully protested the denial of their rights as Americans. Many were brutally assaulted. One good man, a man of God, was killed.

Many of the issues of civil rights are very complex. But about this there can be no argument. Every American citizen must have an equal right to vote. Yet the harsh fact is that in many places in this country men and women are kept from voting simply because they are Negroes.

The Negro citizen may go to register only to be told that the day is wrong, or the hour is late, or the official in charge is absent. He may be asked to recite the entire Constitution, or explain the most complex provisions of State law.

For the fact is that the only way to pass these barriers is to show a white skin.

Experience has clearly shown that the existing process of law cannot overcome systematic discrimination. Wednesday I will send to Congress a law designed to eliminate illegal barriers to the right to vote. This bill will strike down restrictions to voting in all elections – Federal, State, and local – which have been used to deny Negroes the right to vote.

But even if we pass this bill, the battle will not be over. What happened in Selma is part

of a far larger movement. It is the effort of American Negroes to secure for themselves the full blessings of American life.

Their cause must be our cause too. Because it is not just Negroes, but really all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice.



As a man whose roots go deeply into Southern soil, I know how agonizing racial feelings are. But a century has passed, more than a hundred years, since the Negro was freed. And he is not fully free tonight.

A century has passed since the day of promise. And the promise is unkept.

The time of justice has now come, and I tell you that I believe sincerely that no force can hold it back. And when it does, I think that day will brighten the lives of every American.

For Negroes are not the only victims. How many white children have gone uneducated, how many white families have lived in stark poverty, because we have wasted our energy to maintain the barriers of hatred and terror?

This great, rich, restless country can offer opportunity and education and hope to all: black and white, North and South, sharecropper and city dweller. These are our enemies: poverty, ignorance, disease. They are the enemies and not our fellow man, not our neighbor.

Group Discussion: *Why does President Johnson believe the federal government must step in to protect black citizens' voting rights? What does he say is the larger issue beyond voting rights?*

MAP - VIETNAM AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

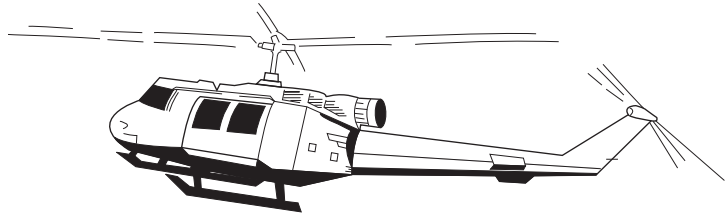
Finish labeling and coloring the map. Fill in the blanks using the word bank below.

North Vietnam South Vietnam

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

Mekong River Gulf of Tonkin

South China Sea Ho Chi Minh Trail



FAMOUS CITIES AND PLACES

Hanoi, the former capital of French Indochina. In this city Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam independent of France as World War Two ended in 1945. He was determined to see Vietnam _____ of all foreign control. Ho Chi Minh formed a guerrilla army called the Viet Minh to fight for independence. He adopted the communist system for the new government he began forming.

Saigon, where a non-communist semi-independent government was established by the French as an alternative to Ho Chi Minh's communist government. It became the _____ of South Vietnam after the country was divided in 1954. The U.S. supported the government based in Saigon. (Saigon was renamed Ho Chi Minh City when communist troops finally took over all of Vietnam in 1975.)

Dien Bien Phu, where the French army was _____ by Ho Chi Minh's forces in 1954. The United States, which had been helping the French financially, refused to join the fight itself at that time.

DMZ line, the "demilitarized zone" or line dividing North and South Vietnam. The split was made in 1954 by an international conference seeking to solve the Vietnam problem. An election was set for 1956 to reunify the country. The election was _____ by leaders in the U.S. and in South Vietnam, however, when it appeared the communists might win.

Da Nang, an important military base for the U.S. during the 1960s, as Ho Chi Minh began new attacks on South Vietnam to reunify the country by _____.

My Lai, the site of a massacre of an estimated 300 Vietnamese civilians in 1968 by American _____. When the facts about the incident came to light, they shocked and angered Americans at home.

Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia. As South Vietnam fell in 1975, a communist group also seized power in Cambodia. Its leaders forced the city's population into the countryside, and caused the _____ of perhaps a million or more Cambodians.

Word bank to fill in the blanks: *canceled, capital, deaths, defeated, force, free, soldiers*



Vietnam and Southeast Asia

Vietnam War Era

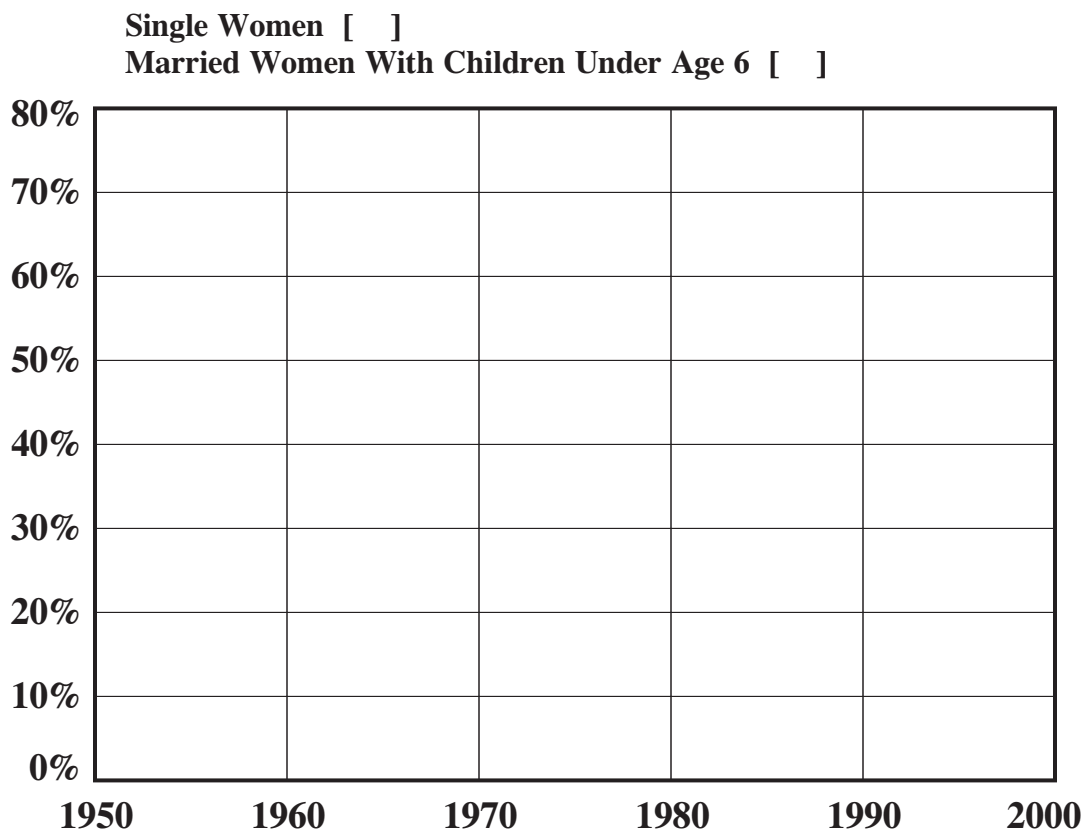
Boundaries of 1954 - 1975 shown

0 400 miles



CHARTING WOMEN AND JOBS

The Women's Liberation movement was one of several factors that sent many more women seeking jobs outside the home. Finish the line graph below to see the impact of this trend in recent decades. What are some of the benefits and some of the challenges that this pattern has created for American families?



Percent of Women in Work Force 1950 to 2000

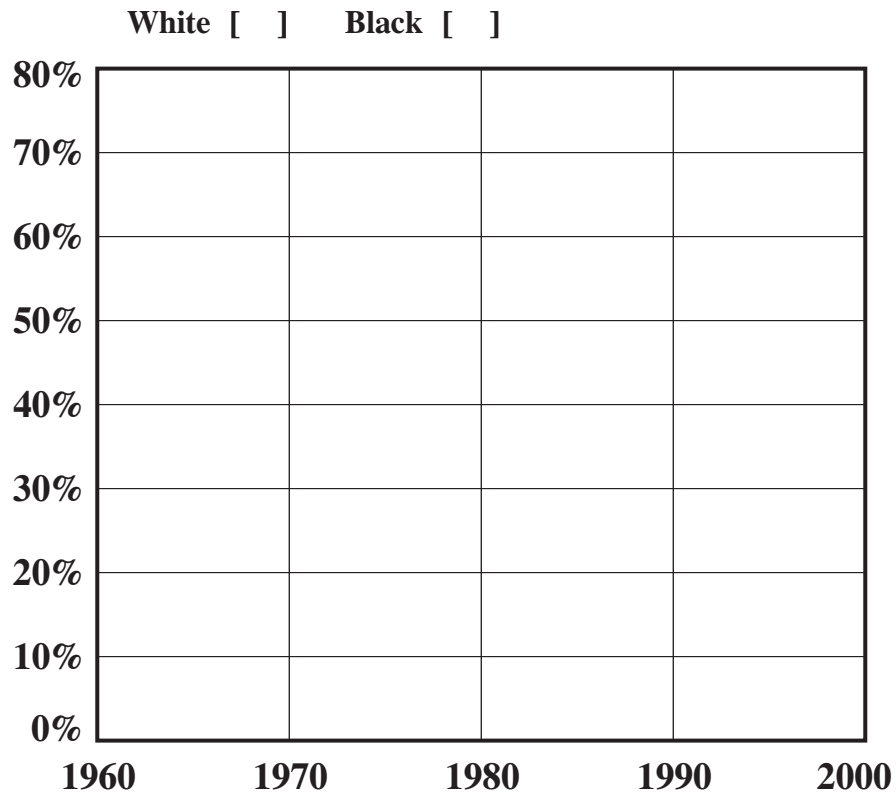
Use the table below to find the information to make the line graph above. Use two different colors to show the trends on the chart. Be sure to complete the color key.

Year	Percent of Single Women in Work Force	Percent of Married Women With Children Under Age 6 in Work Force	Year	Percent of Single Women in Work Force	Percent of Married Women With Children Under Age 6 in Work Force
1950	50.5	11.9	1980	61.5	45.1
1960	44.1	18.6	1990	66.4	58.9
1970	53.0	30.3	2000	68.6	62.8

sources: *Historical Statistics of the United States* and *Statistical Abstract of the United States*

CHARTING THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

Starting in the mid-1960s, political leaders including President Lyndon Johnson threw the weight - and money - of the federal government behind new programs designed to reduce poverty. That fight has continued, with some variations, to this day. Finish the line graph below to see the results. What factors do you think explain the patterns shown here?



**Percent of Population Below Poverty Level Income
1960 to 2000**

Use the table below to find the information to make the line graph above. Use two different colors to show the trends on the chart. Be sure to complete the color key.

Year	Poverty Rate - Percent		Year	Poverty Rate - Percent	
	White	Black		White	Black
1960	17.8	54.0*	1990	10.7	31.9
1970	9.9	33.5	2000	9.4	22.0
1980	10.2	32.5			

* estimated from 1959 data

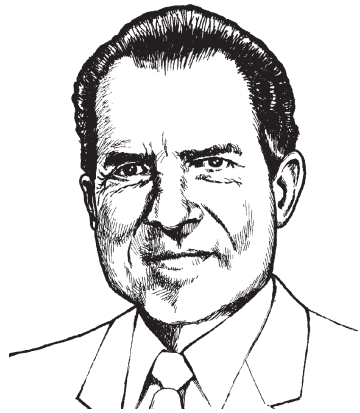
source: *Historical Statistics of the United States*
and *Statistical Abstract of the United States*

DECADE: 1970s THE WATERGATE SCANDAL

Richard Nixon, Watergate, Gerald Ford, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),

Jimmy Carter, OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries),

Three Mile Island (nuclear reactor accident), *Roe v. Wade*



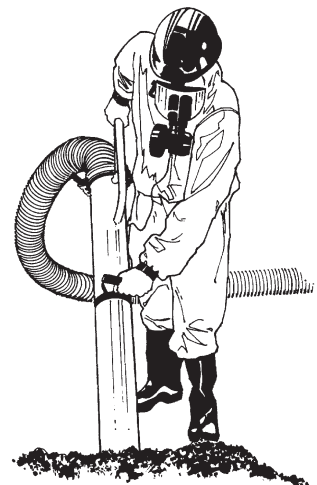
As the 1970s began, the key issue was the continuing war in Vietnam. President Richard Nixon had pledged to end it quickly. But he wanted to avoid an outright defeat for America. He pushed for a plan to begin turning the fighting back over to the South Vietnamese themselves. Meanwhile, mass demonstrations against the war were growing more common on many college campuses.

Nixon felt the protests in America were only encouraging communist North Vietnam to keep up their attacks on South Vietnam. He and his supporters wanted to discredit the anti-war movement. Among other things, a group of Nixon supporters broke into the Washington offices of the Democratic Party in the Watergate building. They intended to place “bugs” (illegal listening devices) on the office telephones. They also wanted to search the office files for documents that might embarrass or discredit the Democrats, who generally opposed Nixon’s policies in Vietnam.

The break-in was discovered. Nixon denied any connection to the incident itself, but investigators turned up convincing evidence that he tried to cover up the crime, and had lied about it to the American people. Congress was soon moving to impeach and remove the president. Rather than face that possibility, he resigned. Vice President Gerald Ford became president, and issued a pardon that protected Nixon from prosecution.

In 1973, as the Watergate scandal was still unfolding, America pulled its troops out of Vietnam. A cease-fire agreement that had been negotiated, however, did not last long. The North Vietnamese army pushed into South Vietnam and forcibly reunited the country in 1975. Thousands of Vietnamese risked their lives and fled in overcrowded boats rather than stay under the rule of the communist government. Many eventually settled in the U.S.

There were other important developments in this decade. People became more aware of the dangers of air and water pollution. The Environmental Protection Agency was created to establish new federal regulations to protect the public. The nation’s rivers looked cleaner and smelled better as thousands of sewage treatment plants were upgraded to new EPA standards. Work also began to identify and clean up dump sites where toxic chemical waste had been buried underground or simply abandoned in old factories.



President Jimmy Carter, who held office in the late 1970s, was especially concerned about the future energy supply. Oil producing countries in the Middle East had formed a group called OPEC, and conspired to raise the price of oil sharply. This increased the price of gasoline and many other products based on oil. Some people said that building more nuclear power plants would solve the problem. An accident at the Three Mile Island power plant in Pennsylvania, however, convinced many Americans that nuclear energy was just too risky. Alternative energy sources like solar power and wind power were explored, but no good solution was found to end our need to import foreign oil.



The nation celebrated its 200th birthday – The Bicentennial – in 1976. Americans had plenty to celebrate. Vast social changes had been made to improve race relations, help the poor, improve education, and protect the environment. A president had resigned in a scandal, yet the government changed leaders peacefully. Most Americans felt a special pride as they gathered for that year’s Fourth of July festivities.

America still faced serious challenges. Violent crime and illegal drug use were growing dramatically in many areas. Factories were closing down at an alarming rate as imported cars and other products from overseas grew popular with American shoppers. The Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion (*Roe v. Wade*) created sharp divisions of public opinion. Many city residents, white and black, were becoming fed up with urban problems and moved out to the suburbs. This trend left many American cities with a shrinking middle class and a shrinking tax base.

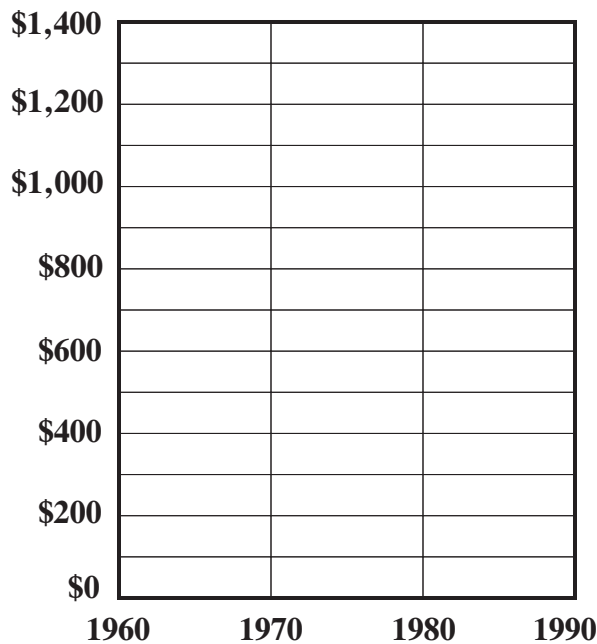


The international situation was mixed. Early in the decade President Nixon pushed successfully for improved relations with Russia and China. President Carter helped persuade Israel and Egypt to sign a historic peace treaty. Even so, the Middle East remained a tinderbox of conflict between Israel and many of the Arab nations. In 1979 a revolution in Iran resulted in an international crisis as American diplomats stationed there were held hostage for more than a year.

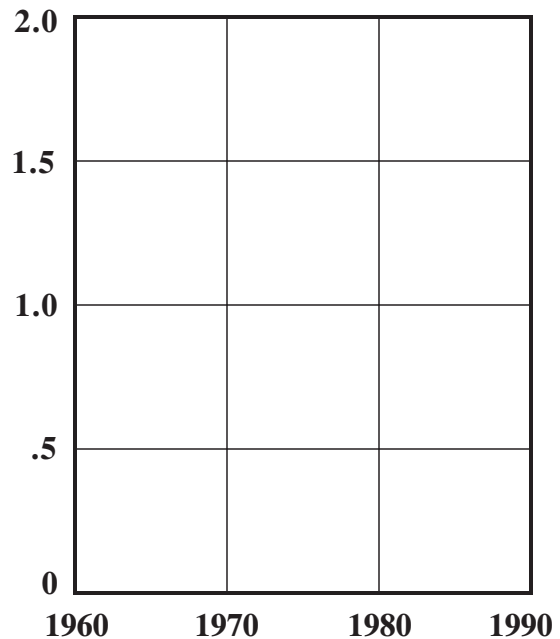
President Carter, a Democrat, was dealing with that crisis as he began running for re-election. Many Americans, however, were increasingly troubled by the country’s lengthening list of problems. Republican candidate Ronald Reagan argued that a new approach was needed. He called for tax reductions to promote the growth of businesses and jobs. He said America needed to take a more forceful stand to protect American interests around the world. It was a message that carried him to the White House as the leader of what some began calling “the conservative revolution.”

CHARTING TRENDS OF THE SEVENTIES

The cost of the war in Vietnam and the expense of new social welfare programs both demanded higher spending by the federal government. While progress was made on many social issues, some problems got worse. Complete these line graphs to study the trends.



**Federal Spending
(Billions of Dollars)
1960 to 1990**



**Violent Crimes in the U.S.
(Millions per Year)
1960 to 1990**

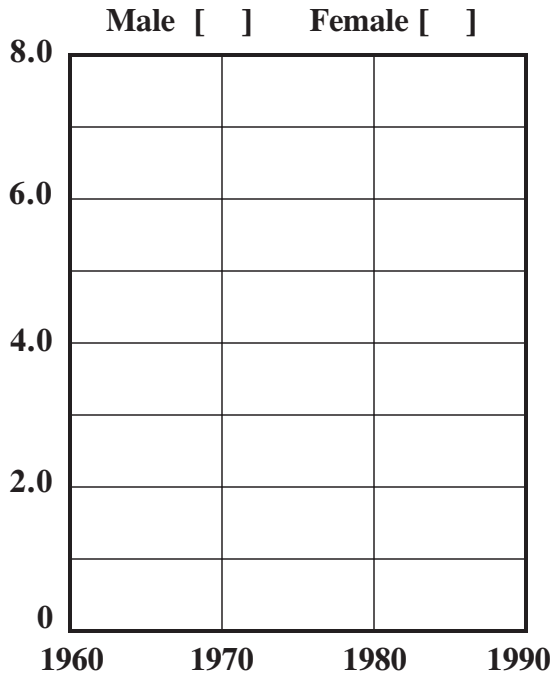
Use the table below to find the information to make the line graphs above. Notice that you must convert some of the numbers in the table to make the second graph. For example, 290,000 = .29 million.

Year	Federal Spending (Billions of Dollars)	Violent Crimes in the U.S.
1960	92	290,000
1970	196	730,000
1980	591	1,400,000
1990	1,253	1,800,000

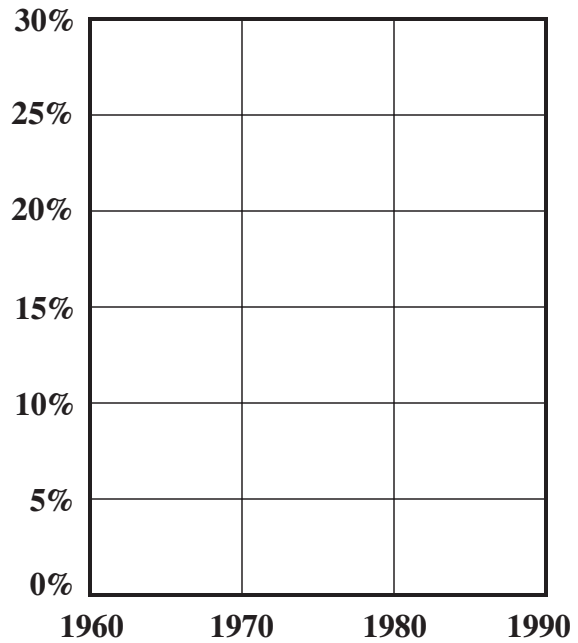
Note: violent crime data includes reported cases of murder, rape, robbery, and assault.

source: *Historical Statistics of the United States and Statistical Abstract of the United States*

Finish the line graphs below to show more of the social changes of the 1970s. When you have completed the graphs, develop an explanation for the trends you have shown. See if others agree or disagree with your explanation.



**College Enrollment
(Millions)
1960 to 1990**



**Births to Unmarried Women
As a Percent of All Births
1960 to 1990**

Use the table below to find the information to make the line graphs above. Use different colors to show the data on the College Enrollment chart. Be sure to complete the color key.

Year	College Enrollment - Degree Programs (Millions of Students)		Births to Unmarried Women As a Percent of All Births (Percent)
	Male	Female	
1960	2.3	1.3	5.3
1970	4.6	3.3	10.7
1980	5.9	6.2	18.4
1990	6.3	7.5	28.0

source: *Historical Statistics of the United States and Statistical Abstract of the United States*

MAP - ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Finish labeling and coloring the map. Fill in the blanks using the word bank below.

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

Mediterranean Sea

Suez Canal

Red Sea

Persian Gulf

Black Sea

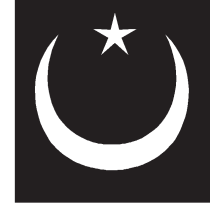
Jordan River

Dead Sea

Nile River

Tigris River

Euphrates River



COUNTRIES AND LAND AREAS

Israel, established in 1948 in part as a haven for Jews displaced by _____ persecution. The neighboring Arab states were determined to destroy the new nation until President Carter helped bring Egypt and Israel together to negotiate a peace treaty in 1978.

Saudi Arabia, a key oil-producing kingdom that joined with other Arab nations in 1973 to _____ oil prices, creating serious economic problems in the U.S. In later years the country moved toward friendlier relations with the United States.

Egypt, one of the Arab nations that led an _____ on Israel in a 1973 war. By the decade's end, however, Egypt became the first Arab nation to officially recognize Israel, and Israel returned the **Sinai Peninsula** to Egypt.

Iran, where religious extremists called Islamic _____ seized control in 1979. The new leaders loudly denounced the U.S. as the "Great Satan," and took 52 American diplomats hostage that same year.

Syria, another enemy of Israel in the 1973 war. It lies just _____ of Turkey.

Iraq, which invaded the tiny but oil-rich nation of **Kuwait** in 1990. The U.S. responded with Operation _____ Storm, forcing Iraq's army to withdraw. The dictator Saddam Hussein remained in power in Iraq, however. His efforts to develop chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons led to a new conflict with the United States in 2003.

Jordan and Lebanon, both countries with Palestinian Arabs who claim Israel's territory was _____ from them. Many of the Palestinians would like to create their own homeland, perhaps on the land known as the West Bank.

Word bank to fill in the blanks: *attack, Desert, fundamentalists, Nazi, raise, south, stolen*



Israel and the Middle East

Boundaries of 1990 shown

Key to Land Areas

Israel

West Bank

0 400 miles



DECADE: 1980s THE REAGAN YEARS

Ronald Reagan, inflation, liberal, conservative, bureaucracy, Star Wars Defense, post-industrial society, global economy, entrepreneur, federal debt, AIDS



As Ronald Reagan wound up his challenge for the White House in 1980, he had good reason to hope for victory. The economy was stalled. Inflation was running more than 10 percent a year, and that reduced the purchasing power of people's wages and savings. Interest rates for bank loans and unemployment figures were both high. On top of it all, many of the big American corporations were moving their factories to other countries where labor costs were lower. Voters were open to new ideas.

Some Democrats argued that America's days of rapid economic growth were over. They said federal government policies should mainly concentrate on making everyone's share of the pie more equal. Reagan, a Republican, said growth was stalled because the government had already become too big and interfered too much in the economy. High taxes and too many regulations, he argued, were killing the incentive to start new businesses. Reagan also said the great expansion of government social programs had created a "welfare trap" that often kept the poor in a life of dependency. Business growth (which creates jobs) would give better opportunities to people of all income levels, he argued.

Reagan's ideas represented a shift away from the views widely held by liberals since the days of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs. The "conservative revolution" of Reagan and his supporters carried a majority of voters on election day.

Once in office, Reagan pushed for a 30 percent cut in the federal income tax rate. This was balanced in part by reducing the budgets of many federally financed social programs. He and his supporters in Congress said the programs were doing very little to actually help the needy. Most Democrats criticized the Reagan cuts as "cold-hearted."

The economy did improve dramatically during Reagan's two terms, and in spite of budget reductions, the most important social welfare programs remained in place.

Controversy also surrounded Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, sometimes called the Star Wars Defense system. The proposal to create an advanced system of defense against Russian nuclear missiles was criticized by some as technologically impossible. Research and design work began. The project was dropped, mainly because the Soviet Union and its communist system collapsed as the decade ended.



In Central America, Reagan's belief in making a strong stand against communism was also evident. In both El Salvador and Nicaragua, uprisings against unpopular and abusive governments were spreading. The president, however, believed it would be safer in the long run to push for reform of existing governments, rather than risk a victory by revolutionaries with communist leanings. The fighting in Central America sent tens of thousands of refugees from that region to America.



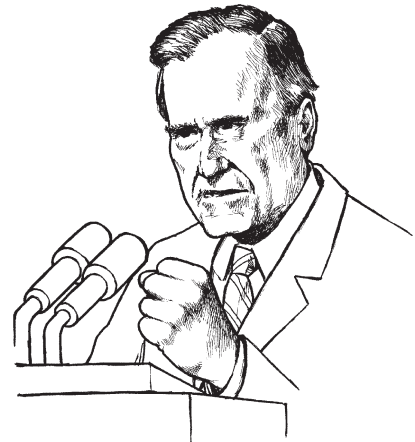
Technology continued changing America in the 1980s. The success of the Space Shuttle was a clear sign of American leadership in high-tech industries. Computers became cheap enough that small businesses and ordinary people began buying them by the millions.

The American economy was shifting to what experts called a new “post-industrial” pattern. Knowledge was becoming the key ingredient in the economy, not coal or iron ore or steel mills. Another trend was the increasingly global economy created by world-wide trade. Both of these trends created many new jobs and opportunities, but eliminated some existing jobs as older factories closed or laid off workers. Still, “entrepreneur” became a familiar word in this decade for people who started new businesses, and who sometimes grew very wealthy in the process. Computer wizard Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft, is one famous example.

By the end of his second term even his critics were admitting that Reagan had given back to America a more optimistic spirit. His opponents were happy to point out that one of his campaign promises, to reduce the federal debt, had not been kept. Another concern, especially in cities, was a rise in the number of homeless people.

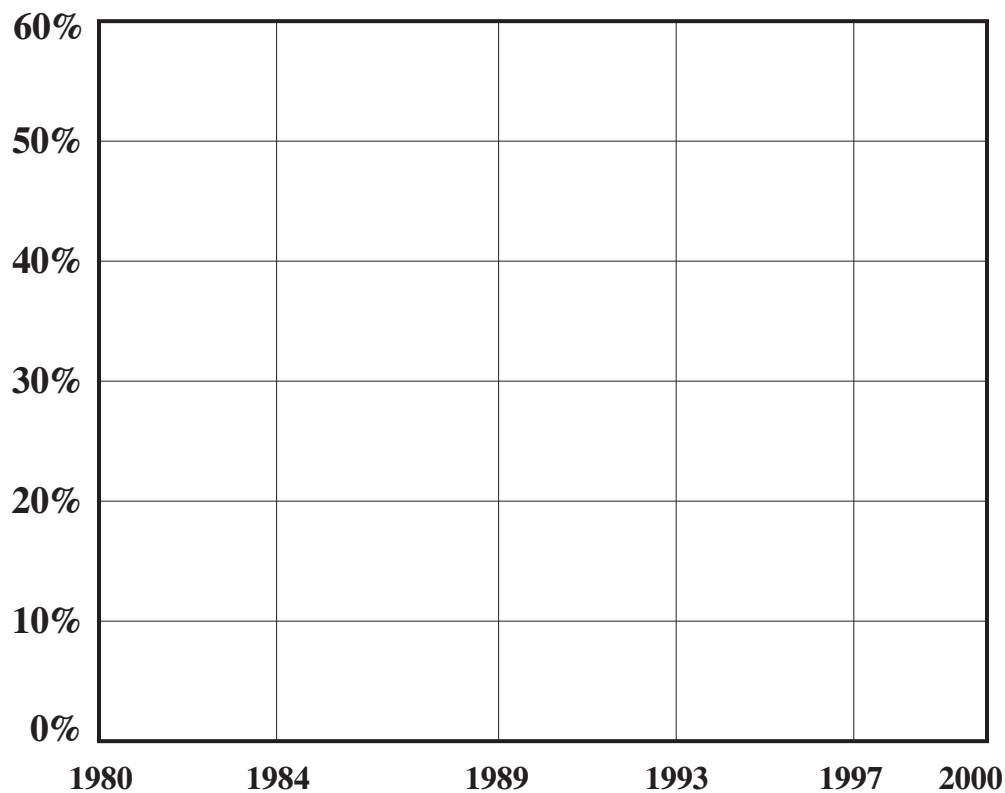
In the 1988 elections the strength of Reagan's presidency helped his vice-president, George H.W. Bush, easily win the White House.

Soon, however, the biggest political news was out of Russia. That nation, far behind the free nations economically, was beginning attempts to reorganize itself. Within two years the communists were forced out of power in Russia, and the Soviet Union itself was breaking apart. For decades Americans had lived under threat of nuclear war, and had sacrificed lives and fortunes in places like Korea, Vietnam, and Central America in the struggle to contain communism. Almost overnight, the Cold War ended. Americans even began discussing ways to help Russia get on her feet as a free society. An era was passing, and now the biggest threat to Americans seemed to be a strange new disease called AIDS, not international politics.



CHARTING THE COMPUTER REVOLUTION

Complete the line graph below to show the spread of computers into American homes. Personal computers became available in the late 1970s. Competition among computer makers led to lower prices and much better computers. Why do you think so many families were so eager to buy computers?



**Households With Computers (Percent)
1980 to 2000**

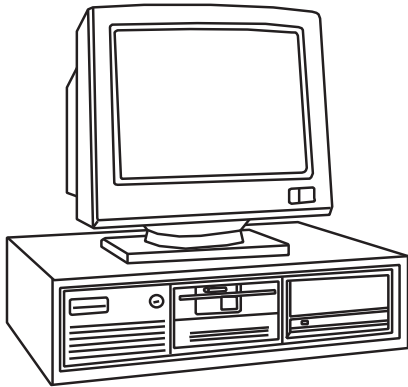
Use the table below to find the information to make the line graph above. The Census Bureau did surveys asking about home computers every few years starting in 1984. The graph lines are organized to show the data from the years of those surveys.

Year	Households With Computers (Percent)	Year	Households With Computers (Percent)
1980	1.0 *	1993	22.8
1984	7.9	1997	36.6
1989	14.4	2000	51.0

* estimated

source: U.S. Census Bureau

At the heart of every computer is the microprocessor chip. It is a small wafer of silicon, with many thousands of transistor circuits etched on its surface. Complete this bar graph to see the rapid improvement in chip making technology during this ten year period.

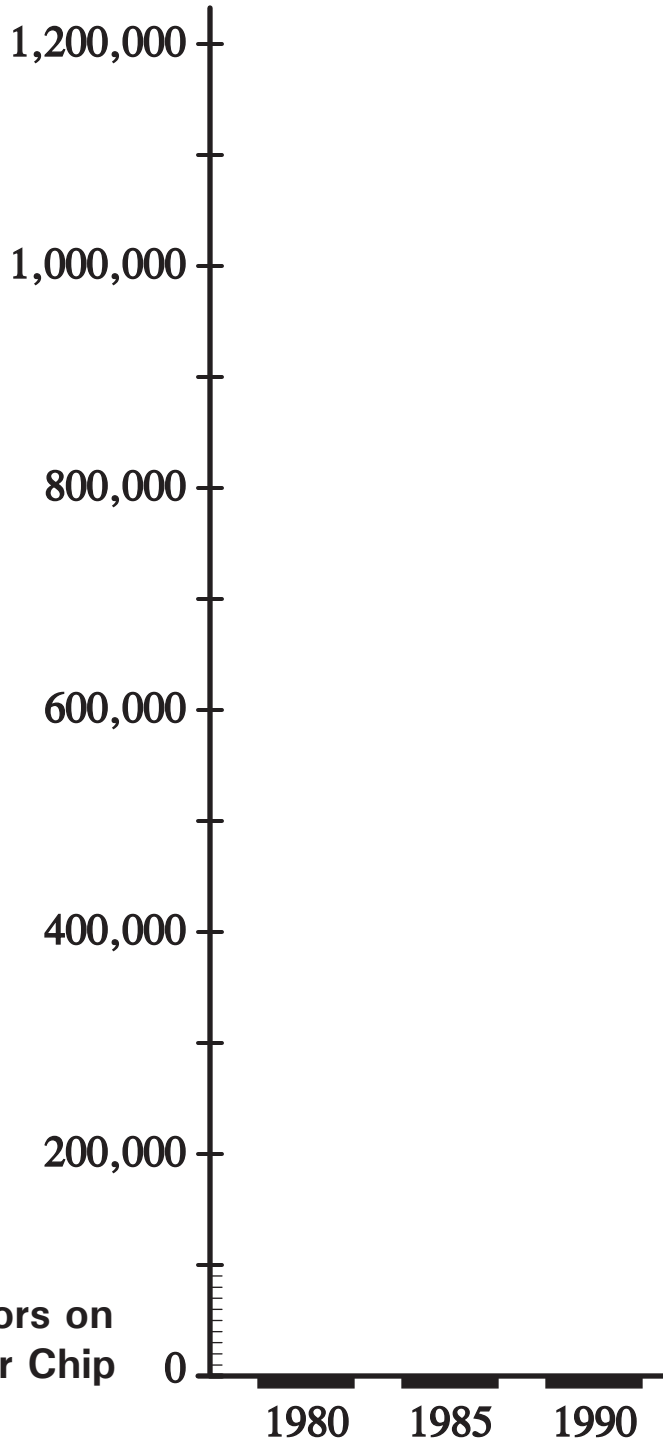


Use the table below to find the information to complete the bar graph on the right. Draw a vertical bar of the appropriate length for the years shown on the graph.

Year	Number of Transistors on Best Microprocessor Chip
1980	29,000
1985	275,000
1990	1,180,000

Note: figures based on best Intel Corp. microprocessor available for home Pcs.

Number of Transistors on Best Microprocessor Chip



RONALD REAGAN SPEAKS FOR FREEDOM

One of President Reagan's most famous speeches (condensed here) contained a stunning challenge to the Russian leader of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Berlin, like Germany itself, had been divided into sections since the end of World War Two. Russia kept East Germany and half of Berlin under communist rule. West Germany was a free nation.

The Berlin Wall was built in the early 1960s by the communist leaders of East Germany to stop people there from fleeing to freedom on western side.

Speech at the Berlin Wall – 1987

Behind me stands a wall that encircles the free sectors of this city, part of a vast system of barriers that divides the entire continent of Europe.



From the Baltic, south, those barriers cut across Germany in a gash of barbed wire, concrete, dog runs, and guard towers. Yet it is here in Berlin where the wall emerges most clearly; here, cutting across your city, where the news photo and television screen have imprinted this brutal division of a continent upon the mind of the world.

In this season of spring in 1945, the people of Berlin emerged from their air-raid shelters to find devastation. Where four decades ago there was rubble, today in West Berlin there is the greatest industrial output of any city in Germany – busy office blocks, fine homes and apartments, proud avenues, and the spreading lawns of park land.

From devastation, from utter ruin, you

Berliners have, in freedom, rebuilt a city that once again ranks as one of the greatest on Earth.

In the West today, we see a free world that has achieved a level of prosperity and well-being unprecedented in all human history.

In the Communist world, we see failure, technological backwardness, declining standards of health, even want of a most basic kind – too little food. Even today, the Soviet Union cannot feed itself.

After these four decades, then, there stands before the entire world one great and inescapable conclusion: Freedom leads to prosperity. Freedom replaces the ancient hatreds among the nations with comity [courtesy] and peace. Freedom is the victor.

And now the Soviets themselves may, in a limited way, be coming to understand the importance of freedom. We hear much from Moscow about a new policy of reform and openness. Some political prisoners have been released. Certain foreign news broadcasts are no longer being jammed.

Are these the beginnings of profound changes in the Soviet state? Or are they token gestures, intended to raise false hopes in the West?

There is one sign the Soviets can make that would be unmistakable, that would advance dramatically the cause of freedom and peace. General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe: Come here to this gate. **Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!**

In Europe, only one nation and those it controls refuse to join the community of freedom. Yet in this age of redoubled economic growth, of information and innovation, the Soviet Union faces a choice: It

must make fundamental changes, or it will become obsolete.

As I looked out a moment ago, I noticed words crudely spray-painted upon the wall, perhaps by a young Berliner, “This wall will fall. Beliefs will become reality.”

Yes, across Europe, this wall will fall. For it cannot withstand faith; it cannot withstand truth. The wall cannot withstand freedom.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev did not come to open the Berlin Wall. It was torn down in 1989 and 1990 as people across Germany, Eastern Europe, and Russia itself rose up in rebellion against their Communist Party rulers.

President Reagan completed his second term shortly before the dramatic events that finally brought down the Berlin Wall. These are condensed excerpts from his speech as he returned to private life.

Reagan’s Farewell Address – 1989

There are two things that I’m proudest of. One is the economic recovery, in which the people of America created, and filled, 19 million new jobs. The other is the recovery of our morale: America is respected again in the world, and looked to for leadership.

Common sense told us that when you put a big tax on something, the people will produce less of it. So we cut the people’s tax rates, and the people produced more than ever before.

Our economic program brought about the longest peacetime expansion in our history: family income up, the poverty rate down, entrepreneurship booming, and an explosion in research and new technology.

And something else we learned: once you

begin a great movement, there’s no telling where it will end.

Countries across the globe are turning to free markets and free speech, and turning away from the ideologies of the past. For them, the Great Rediscovery of the 1980s has been that the moral way of government is the practical way of government. Democracy, the profoundly good, is also the profoundly productive.

Back in the 1960s when I began, it seemed to me that we had begun reversing the order of things, that through more and more rules and regulations and taxes, the government was taking more of our money, more of our options, and more of our freedom.



I went into politics in part to put up my hand and say, “Stop!”

I think we have stopped a lot of what needed stopping.

And I hope we have once again reminded people that man is not free unless government is limited. There’s a clear cause and effect here that is as neat and predictable as a law of physics: as government expands, liberty contracts.

Group Discussion: *In the first speech, what contrast does Reagan make between life on the two sides of the Berlin Wall? What point does he want to make with his challenge to Soviet leader Gorbachev?*

In the second speech, what does Reagan count as the accomplishments of his years in office? What point does Reagan want to leave with his audience about government power?

DECADE: 1990s THE COLD WAR ENDS

George H.W. Bush, Desert Storm, Rodney King case, multiculturalism, Cesar Chavez, Bill Clinton, welfare reform, Monica Lewinsky scandal

Looking over newspaper headlines, most Americans would probably rank 1990 as a very good year. The Cold War ended as communist leaders lost their grip on the Soviet Union and eastern Europe. The struggle had been a dark streak running through American life for more than forty years. Nuclear weapons, McCarthyism, the Vietnam War – they were all a part of it. Now, incredibly, the Russians were admitting that communism had led them not to a workers' paradise, but into poverty and oppression.



The collapse of the Soviet Union and communism had an enormous impact on America. American armed forces were told to begin cutting back, as the old enemy began acting more like a friend. Politicians including President George H.W. Bush began talking about the “Peace Dividend,” that is, the money that could be switched from defense needs to help solve other problems.

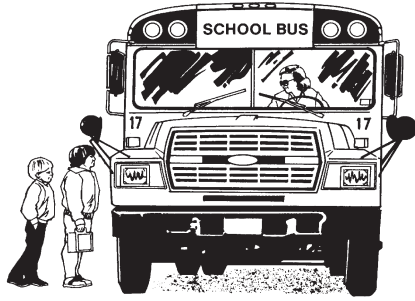
Another sign of the change came as American troops moved into the Middle East to free Kuwait in early 1991, after it was invaded by Iraq. In earlier times Russia would have played its hand against America's intervention. Now it cooperated with the multi-national effort of Operation Desert Storm. The American-led military action was a big success. Some people, however, grumbled that the whole affair seemed more about oil supplies than liberty. Kuwait, quickly freed, was still no democracy.

Overall, Desert Storm and the changes in Russia seemed to most citizens a sign of the strength of America's basic principles. Yet as the 1992 presidential campaign got underway, it was clear that beyond the basics there was considerable disagreement. Conservatives claimed America's culture was falling apart. They pointed to the growth of violence, the spread of single parent families, and young people unwilling or unable to take responsible roles in society. Liberals saw the same problems, but claimed they were evidence of racism, sexism, or lack of opportunity for the poor.



Race and ethnicity remained troublesome issues. African Americans had successfully moved into the highest levels of society. Virginia, once part of the old Confederacy, had elected a black governor. But in Los Angeles a deadly riot

erupted after police accused of brutality during the arrest of a speeding black motorist named Rodney King were declared not guilty by a mostly white jury.



At the same time other ethnic groups, especially Hispanics, were becoming a bigger part of the American picture. As a union leader, Cesar Chavez became famous for his work to improve conditions for Hispanic farm workers. Big city school districts struggled to cope with children speaking dozens of languages. Some leaders argued that America should simply embrace the new spirit of “multiculturalism.” Others, however, warned that without a common culture and language shared by all Americans, the country would fall apart in endless squabbling among different groups.

Many of these issues became part of the 1992 election. Democrat Bill Clinton, a former governor of Arkansas, won the White House. He had come of age during the turbulent 1960s and embraced many of the liberal views that had grown in that era.

President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, were eager to create a National Health Care system. Canada, England, and a number of other countries had such plans in place for years. The proposal would put the federal government in charge of providing medical care to all. The idea was popular with liberals, who said there were too many Americans who could not afford the cost of health insurance. Critics, however, said turning over control of the nation’s hospitals and doctors to the federal government would result in lower quality medical care for everyone. The proposal was voted down by Congress.

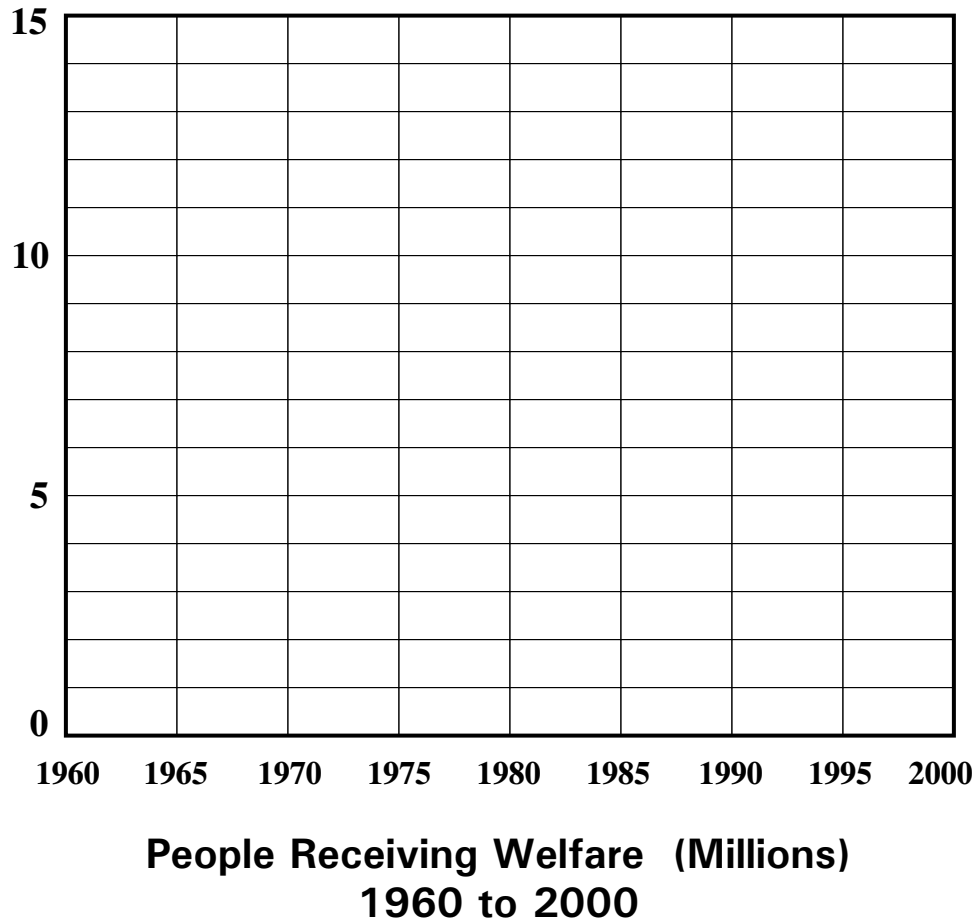


The 1994 elections tipped both houses of Congress to Republican majorities for the first time in many years. It seemed a clear signal that the shift to more conservative views that started in the 1980s was still very much alive. A welfare reform law was one result. Congress wrote, and the president approved, changes that allowed states to set time limits and work requirements for welfare recipients. Budget agreements were also reached to bring federal spending in better balance with the government’s income from taxes. A growing economy in the last half of this decade helped bring success to both these efforts.

President Clinton was reelected in 1996, keeping the White House in the hands of the Democrats. During his second term, however, the president was impeached when allegations were made of personal misconduct involving a young woman who worked at the White House. The president was convicted by the Senate of some charges related to the scandal. The Senate voted against removing Clinton from office, however. As the Monica Lewinsky scandal faded from headlines, most Americans were thankful that the nation was ending the decade on a prosperous and mostly peaceful note.

CHARTING WELFARE REFORM

Complete the line graph below to show the growth of welfare and the results of the 1996 welfare reform law. The figures show the number of people in the U.S. receiving aid under the most common welfare program. How effective was the welfare reform law?



Use the table below to find the information to make the line graph above.

Year	Welfare Recipients* (Millions)	Year	Welfare Recipients (Millions)	Year	Welfare Recipients (Millions)
1960	3.0	1975	11.2	1990	11.5
1965	4.3	1980	10.6	1995	13.7
1970	8.5	1985	10.8	2000	5.8

* figures are for AFDC and TANF recipients

sources: *Historical Statistics of the United States* and *Statistical Abstract of the United States*

HILLARY CLINTON ON CHILD CARE

Hillary Clinton was an active First Lady and later, a U.S. Senator. Child care issues remained one of her concerns, as this condensed speech shows.

I wanted to come and tell you why this is an issue that deserves White House attention, and deserves the attention of our nation.

More and more families are seeking child care. Over half of all the infants under age one are in day care. Twelve million children under the age of six, and 17 million more age six through 13, have both parents or their only parent in the work force.

The plain fact is that there is simply not enough quality care for the children who need it. Quality care is financially out of reach for the hard-working American families whose children deserve the best attention they can receive.

Now, there are many reasons to put our children's needs first. One reason is because we know that how we care for our children is critical to their intellectual and emotional development. Just 15 years ago, even scientists thought that a baby's brain structure was virtually complete at birth.

Now, neuroscience tells us that it is a work in progress, and that everything we do with a child has some kind of potential physical influence on that rapidly forming brain.

Experiences in those first three years of life can also determine how well a child learns. When someone speaks, reads, or plays with an infant or toddler, he or she, whether it is a parent, a grandparent, an older sibling or care-giver, is activating the connections in that child's brain that will one day enable her to think and read and speak and solve problems herself.

Now, what that means is that sub-par care, whether in the home or in a child care

setting, means that a young brain is being deprived of what it needs to live up to its natural potential.



Another reason we need to act is that we now have evidence that child care is too often inadequate.

A recent national study of child care centers found that 70 percent of children are in care that is barely adequate. Ten percent are in care that is dangerous to their health and safety.

That means that they spend hours of their days with care givers who do not follow basic sanitary practices, who rarely cuddle, talk to or play with these infants and toddlers, in rooms that lack toys and other materials to encourage development, and in places where the ratio of children to adults is too high for individual attention.

Now, there's no doubt that the most important, lasting influence on any child is that child's family. But we know that good, quality child care can improve a child's chances, if that child is in a difficult family situation. So turning to child care is not just something that is a nice issue to talk about.

It is, as the President calls it, the next great frontier of public policy. To build up and strengthen our families, to give them more support so they can do their jobs both at home and in the workplace, will help us chart that frontier for generations of American children to come.

Group Discussion: *What are the main points Hillary Clinton makes about the need for better day care for children? What does she mean when she says the issue is "the next great frontier of public policy"?*