

GEOGRAPHY OF HUMAN WELL-BEING: A DIVERSE AND CONNECTED WORLD



Introduction and overview

1. What is poverty?

2. What causes poverty?

**3. How do we
measure poverty?**

4. What are the different
types of aid?

5. Aid or trade?

6. MDG – progress in
human well-being

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World Vision



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HOW DO WE MEASURE POVERTY?

Worksheet 3



One way of measuring human well-being is to measure the wealth of different countries – the value of goods or products and services produced (the Gross Domestic Product or GDP). This can be divided by the total population to see the GDP per capita.

2014 GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) PER CAPITA – IN \$US

TOP 15		\$US	BOTTOM 15		\$US
1	Qatar	143,427	173	The Gambia	1,599
2	Luxembourg	92,049	174	Ethiopia	1,589
3	Singapore	82,762	175	Comoros	1,548
4	Brunei	73,233	176	Togo	1,450
5	Kuwait	71,020	177	Madagascar	1,437
6	Norway	66,937	178	Guinea-Bissau	1,436
7	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	64,479	179	Guinea	1,313
8	San Marino	60,664	180	Eritrea	1,195
9	Switzerland	58,087	181	Mozambique	1,174
10	USA	54,597	182	Niger	1,048
11	Saudi Arabia	52,183	183	Burundi	911
12	Bahrain	51,714	184	Liberia	882
13	Ireland	49,195	185	Malawi	780
14	Netherlands	47,355	186	Democratic Republic Congo (DRC)	704
15	Australia	46,433	187	Central African Republic	607

Source: World Economic Outlook Database, April 2015, International Monetary Fund. Database updated on 14 April 2015. Accessed on 14 April 2015.

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However, this doesn't mean that everyone in Qatar or the USA is rich and everyone in Malawi or the Democratic Republic of Congo is poor. There is inequality of wealth between countries and there is inequality of wealth in every country. There is poverty in the USA and people with great wealth in Malawi. Also, money and GDP is only one measure of human well-being. A few weeks before he was shot, while a candidate for President of the USA, Robert Kennedy said this:

“ Our gross domestic product counts air pollution and advertising, and ambulances to clear our highways of carnage. It counts special locks for our doors and the jails for those who break them. It counts napalm, the cost of a nuclear warhead, and armoured cars for police who fight riots in our streets. It counts rifles and knives, and the television programs which glorify violence in order to sell toys to our children.

Yet the gross domestic product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education, or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages; the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials.

It measures neither our wit nor our courage; neither our wisdom nor our learning; neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country; it measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile.

Source: Adapted from Robert F. Kennedy, www.jfklibrary.org/Research/Research-Aids/Ready-Reference/RFK-Speeches/Remarks-of-Robert-F-Kennedy-at-the-University-of-Kansas-March-18-1968.aspx

FOR YOU TO DO



- Find the countries listed (see page 1) on a world map and identify the region of the world they represent. What do you notice about the spatial distribution of GDP per capita in the world?

EUROPE	ASIA	OCEANIA / PACIFIC	AFRICA	LATIN AMERICA	NORTH AMERICA	MIDDLE EAST

- Read the quote from Robert Kennedy and identify the important things he says that GDP **does not** measure. Can you suggest any ways that these could be measured?

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HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Over the past twenty years, another way the world measures human well-being is the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI). This is a way of measuring human well-being around the world and includes health, education and wealth.



HEALTH	EDUCATION	INCOME
<p>Do the people have a long and healthy life?</p> <p>Measure: What is the average life expectancy of people?</p>	<p>Do the people have access to knowledge and learning?</p> <p>Measure: What is the average number of years spent at school?</p>	<p>Do the people have a decent standard of living?</p> <p>Measure: What is the average income or wealth of the people (GNI per capita)?</p>

Together, these measures give an indication of what life is like for people in different parts of the world. When you look at these measures, you can again see that there is great inequality in the world. Some people have good access to a decent standard of living, and quality health and education services while other parts of the world do not.

FOR YOU TO DO



- The four tables (below) give examples of countries in each of the categories of development, from Very High Development to Low Development. This is determined by their HDI ranking. Complete each table by selecting additional countries and filling in their HDI data. Information can be found at: hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-I-human-development-index-and-its-components

VERY HIGH DEVELOPMENT (RANKED 1–49)

COUNTRY	HEALTH: LIFE EXPECTANCY	EDUCATION	INCOME (GNI)
Australia	82 years	12 years	\$38,691

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HIGH DEVELOPMENT (RANKED 50–102)

COUNTRY	HEALTH: LIFE EXPECTANCY	EDUCATION	INCOME (GNI)
Brazil	73.5 years	7.2 years	\$10,607

MEDIUM DEVELOPMENT (RANKED 103–144)

COUNTRY	HEALTH: LIFE EXPECTANCY	EDUCATION	INCOME (GNI)
Timor Leste	67.5 years	4.4 years	\$9,674
Bangladesh			

LOW DEVELOPMENT (RANKED 145–187)

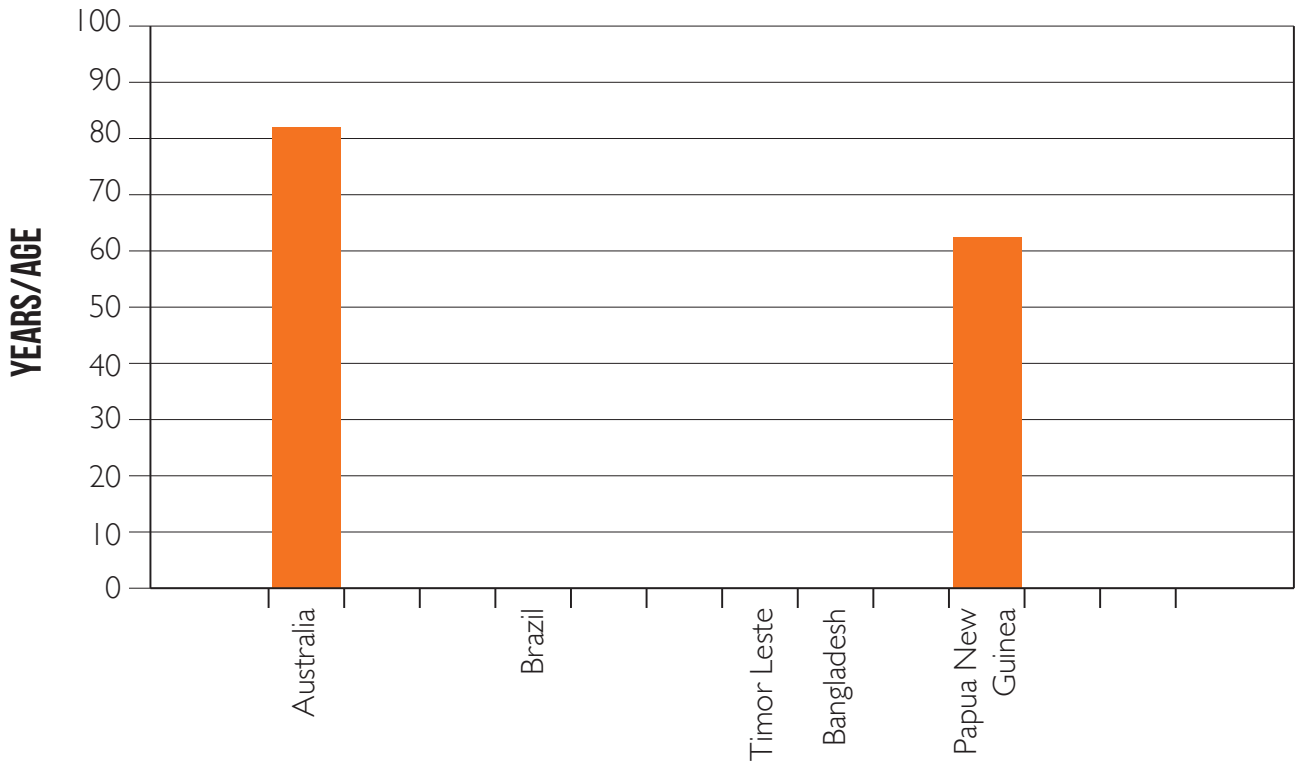
COUNTRY	HEALTH: LIFE EXPECTANCY	EDUCATION	INCOME (GNI)
Papua New Guinea	62.4 years	3.9 years	\$2,453

HOW DO WE MEASURE POVERTY?

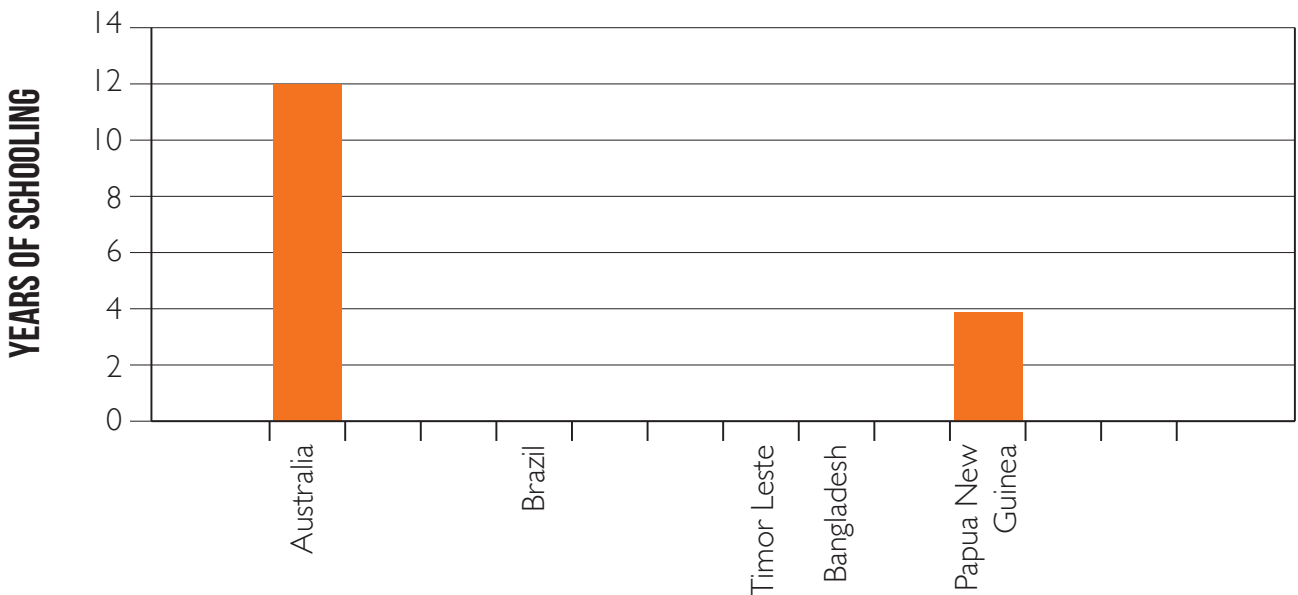
Worksheet 3

2. Graph the data for the 12 selected countries on the column graphs below.

HEALTH: LIFE EXPECTANCY



EDUCATION: MEAN YEARS OF SCHOOLING

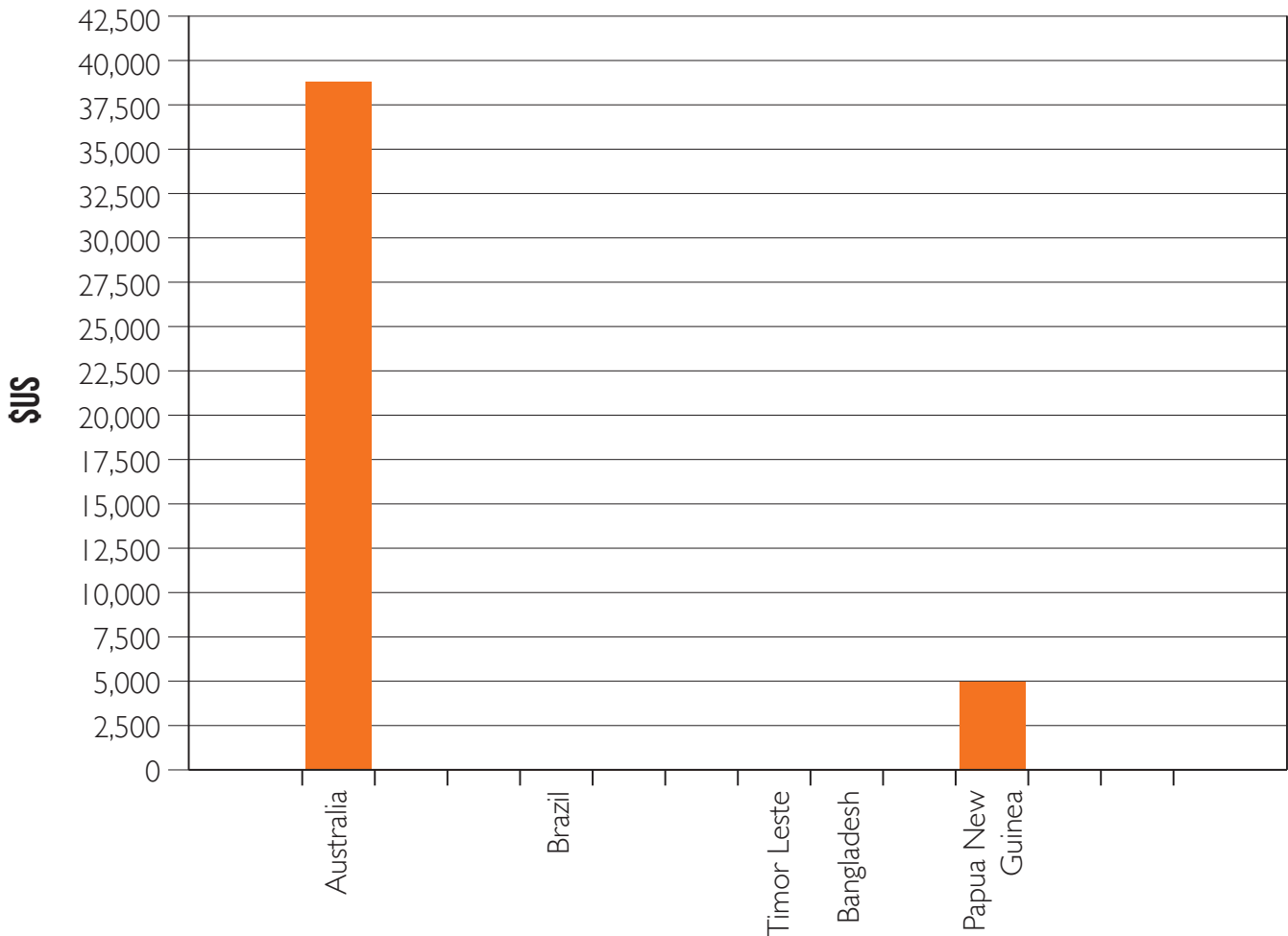


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INCOME: GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (PER CAPITA)



3. What patterns do you notice in the three graphs above?

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