

Gapminder – Dollar Street Project

Background Information

Our belongings tell a story about who we are. If someone was to look around your home and see what you own, they could take an educated guess about your family's socioeconomic class, cultural values, talents, struggles, etc. In Oceanside alone, our homes and their contents can feature vast differences just by driving down the block. What about homes from all over the world?

Hans Rosling, a Swedish physician, professor of International Health, and founder of the Gapminder Foundation, created resources to help us study how people live all over the world today. Rosling's Gapminder Foundation helps to track changes in data relating to the environment, economics, public health, and much more. All of the historical developments we have studied this year, such as worldwide conflicts, political revolutions or the globalization of markets, all affected the trends laid out in Rosling's study. We know you will be able to find meaningful connections between our course content and the changes over time presented here.

Also associated with Rosling's work is "Dollar Street," a collection of images from families of different classes in countries all over the world. Dollar Street opens up the world to us, inviting us to see homes and belongings from families in nearly every country. How different is your life from someone whose family earns the same income in South Africa? Compared to a family living on \$39 per month in Haiti? Or compared to an affluent family in Iran? This final project will give you the freedom to choose your locations around the world and figure out not only the differences in our lives, but also the striking similarities.

Task

Visit: <https://www.gapminder.org/dollar-street>

On the website, for each area of the world (Asia, Africa, the Americas) choose three different families from a country (or countries) there. For example, when working on Asia you can choose families from three different countries there, like India, Vietnam, and Lebanon or you can choose three different families from the same country. For the Americas, you cannot choose the United States. You can sort families by continent by clicking "the World" at the top of the page and checking off boxes by continent/country. Use the information and images for the families you choose to complete the charts on the following pages.

ASIA

Income Level:

Up to \$50

\$51 - \$500

Over \$500

Family Name/Income:

Country:

Use the photographs/information on the website to describe what you observe in each of the following categories.

Kitchen/Kitchenware

Bathroom/Toiletries

Power/Water

**Possessions (furniture,
toys, electronics, etc.)**

AFRICA

Income Level:

Up to \$50

\$51 - \$500

Over \$500

Family Name/Income:

Country:

Use the photographs/information on the website to describe what you observe in each of the following categories.

Kitchen/Kitchenware

Bathroom/Toiletries

Power/Water

Possessions (furniture, toys, electronics, etc.)

THE AMERICAS

Income Level:

Up to \$50

\$51 - \$500

Over \$500

Family Name/Income:

Country:

Use the photographs/information on the website to describe what you observe in each of the following categories.

Kitchen/Kitchenware

Bathroom/Toiletries

Power/Water

**Possessions (furniture,
toys, electronics, etc.)**

Reflection

1. Choose one of the families you examined on your charts. Describe the ways in which this family's home/lifestyle is very different from that of the average home/lifestyle of a resident of Oceanside, NY.

2. Choose one of the families you examined on your charts. Describe the ways in which this family's home/lifestyle is similar to that of the average home/lifestyle of a resident of Oceanside, NY.

3. Explain the value of learning about how other people around the world live today. **One paragraph minimum length.**