

Name: _____

Lesson 5

Period: _____

Having Many Children or Few

Directions. Read the *Handy Dandy Guide* and the mystery. Read the clues. Be careful.

While all the clues are correct, only some are *useful* in solving the mystery. Decide which clues are most relevant to solving the mystery. Use the clues and one or more of the ideas from the *Handy Dandy Guide* to figure out a solution to the mystery. Write your solution.

Handy Dandy Guide

1. People *choose*.
2. People's choices involve *costs*.
3. People respond to *incentives* in predictable ways.
4. People create *economic systems* that influence individual choices and incentives.
5. People gain when they *trade* voluntarily.
6. People's choices have consequences that lie in the *future*.

The Mystery

Most people eventually get married and have a family. But sometimes the number of children people decide to have is a puzzle. People in poor nations generally have more children than people in rich nations.

Why do people who can barely pay for life's necessities have more children than people who are more affluent?

The Clues

1. Sub-Saharan Africa's population growth rates will be the highest of all major world regions for the next 25 years.
2. Women in nations like the United States generally have more economic opportunities than women have in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.
3. Children in poor nations often work to contribute an income for their family.
4. At least 132 million births will occur every year for the next 25 years, despite falling fertility rates.
5. In 1996, 95 out of every 100 persons added to the world's population lived in less developed countries (LDCs).
6. College education is a big expense for families in developed nations like the United States.
7. Child labor laws often prevent children in developed nations from working legally.
8. The population of the world in the year 2000 is about 6 billion.
9. In developing countries today as compared with the 1960s, five times as many couples are using contraception.

Record your solution and explain it briefly here:
