

# Lesson Plan 2: The Chicago region: Comparing data

**SUBJECT(S):** Math, Geography

**GRADE LEVEL:** 7 - 10

**DURATION:** one class period

## Objectives

Students will understand that:

- socio-economic factors and cultural values influence decisions about where to live

Students will be able to:

- formulate a hypothesis based on data

## Warm-up/Discussion

Ask students to consider the following questions:

How free are we to choose where we live? What sorts of things affect where we decide to move?

Have students make two columns on a sheet of paper. In the first column, ask them to describe their ideal place to live (this can be an actual community or a list of characteristics describing what they would like in a community). This should include what the neighborhood looks like, the people who live there, shops or other businesses, entertainment, the landscape (urban, suburban or rural) and any other characteristics they can add. In the second column, have them list as many things as they can that might influence where people live, such as proximity to jobs, the type and price of homes and available transportation.

Lead the class in a discussion about how these factors influence decisions about where to live.

## Materials Included:

- Comparing Data in the Chicago Region [pg. 60]
- Counties in the Chicago Region: Comparing Data [pg. 61]
- City/County Profile (from Chapter 2; Lesson Plan 1) [pg. 42]

## Additional Materials Needed:

- None

## Vocabulary

### poverty level:

*a minimum income level below which people are considered lacking adequate money for basic living expenses*

### hypothesis:

*a tentative explanation for an observation that can be tested by further investigation*

## **Learning Activities**

Re-create the blank table from the *Comparing Data in the Chicago Region* (pg. 59) handout. on the board and hand out a copy to each student. Call on students to come to the board to fill in data columns for the *City/County Profile* (pg.42) they were assigned in the previous lesson plan. Ask other students to check to make sure that everyone has the same numbers for the city/county they were assigned. Students should copy the data from the board to fill in their own *Comparing Data in the Chicago Region* (pg. 59) handout so that each student has data for all six counties and the City of Chicago.

## **Assessment**

Have students complete the *Counties in the Chicago Region: Comparing Data* (pg. 60) handout.

## **Wrap-up/Reflection**

Ask students to suggest some reasons for the demographic patterns shown on the *Comparing Data in the Chicago Region* (pg. 59) handout.

## Comparing Data in the Chicago Region

|  | City of Chicago | Cook | DuPage | Kane | Lake | McHenry | Will |
|--|-----------------|------|--------|------|------|---------|------|
| Total number of people living in the county                                  |                 |      |        |      |      |         |      |
| Median age   |                 |      |        |      |      |         |      |
| % African-American   |                 |      |        |      |      |         |      |
| % Latino   |                 |      |        |      |      |         |      |
| Difference between % Latino in this county and in the United States          |                 |      |        |      |      |         |      |
| % Asian  |                 |      |        |      |      |         |      |
| % White  |                 |      |        |      |      |         |      |
| % who own their homes  |                 |      |        |      |      |         |      |
| % who rent   |                 |      |        |      |      |         |      |
| % high school graduates  |                 |      |        |      |      |         |      |
| % college graduates  |                 |      |        |      |      |         |      |
| Median family income   |                 |      |        |      |      |         |      |
| % of men who are married   |                 |      |        |      |      |         |      |
| % of people over 5 years old who speak a language other than English at home |                 |      |        |      |      |         |      |
| % of people 65 years or older  |                 |      |        |      |      |         |      |
| % of people under 5 years old  |                 |      |        |      |      |         |      |

## Counties in the Chicago Region: Comparing Data

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) More people live in \_\_\_\_\_ County than any other county in the Chicago region.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ County has the highest median family income.
- 3) People who live in \_\_\_\_\_ County spend the most time getting to work.
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ County has the largest percentage of families living below the poverty level.
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ County has the largest percentage of people who are Latino.
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ County has the lowest percentage of renters.
- 7) The highest median age is in \_\_\_\_\_ County.
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_ County has the highest percentage of people who have graduated from college.
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_ County has the lowest percentage of people who were born outside the United States.
- 10) The average family size is largest in \_\_\_\_\_ County.