

12th Grade Economic Happiness Inquiry

How Could Americans Be Happier?		
Staging the Question: Analyze the graph “The Happy Medium” and discuss whether money can buy happiness.		
Social Studies Practices	Gathering, Using, and Interpreting Evidence Economics and Economic Systems	
Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3
Why do some consider Denmark the happiest country in the world?	How does the United States rank in happiness?	What economic policies could make Americans happier?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
List the reasons Denmark ranks number one on the World Happiness Report.	Create a three-column chart that reflects the three happiness studies and list the United States’ rankings and the reasons for those rankings.	Develop a claim using evidence about how an economic policy could make Americans happier.
<i>Integration of Inquiry Process and Skills</i>		
Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3
Connect: Reads background information to discover the complexities of the question and brainstorms ideas for further inquiry by analyzing the graph “The Happy Medium” and discussing whether money can buy happiness.	Connect: States and verifies what is known about the <i>World Happiness Report</i> and what makes people happy. Graphic Organizer: Connect#14	Connect:
Wonder: Refines question to guide the search for different types of information about why Denmark ranks number one on the <i>World Happiness Report</i> . Graphic Organizer: Wonder#15	Wonder: Refines questions to provide a framework for the inquiry about the United States’ happiness rank. Graphic Organizer: Wonder#19 and Wonder#20	Wonder: Analyzes and evaluates what is known, observed or experienced to form tentative thesis or hypothesis about what economic policies could make Americans happier. Graphic Organizer: Wonder#12
Investigate: Takes notes using one or more of a variety of notetaking strategies while examining sources featuring aspects of the Danish economic system and the choice Danes make to pay higher taxes for greater public security. Graphic Organizer: Investigate#85 , Investigate#86 , Investigate#87 , Investigate#88 and Investigate#89	Investigate: Recognizes the effect of different perspectives and points of view on information about the United States’ happiness rank while examining the 2014 <i>Economic Freedom of the World Report</i> and the 2015 <i>Happy Planet Index</i> . Graphic Organizer: Investigate#76	Investigate: Pursues a balanced perspective by evaluating information based on authority, accuracy, point of view, and reliability while examining the political platforms from the Republican, Democratic, and Green parties as well as while conducting additional research. Graphic Organizer: Investigate#104 C3 Resources
Construct: Lists the reasons Denmark ranks number one on the World Happiness Report.	Construct: Creates a three-column chart that reflects the three happiness studies and lists the United States’ rankings and the reasons for those rankings.	Construct: Presents different perspectives with evidence for each about economic policies related to American happiness. Graphic Organizer: Construct#44 , Construct#45 , and Construct#46
Express:	Express:	Express: Develops a claim using evidence about how an economic policy could make Americans happier.
Reflect:	Reflect:	Reflect: Identifies own strengths and sets goals for improvement. Graphic Organizer: Reflect#20 and Reflect#21
Summative Performance Task: Argument: How could Americans be happier? Construct an argument (e.g., detailed outline, poster, or essay) that addresses the compelling question using specific claims and relevant evidence from historical sources while acknowledging competing views. Extension: Evaluate Bhutan’s attempts to improve gross national happiness and the extent to which this is a viable economic approach.		