

CREATING AND READING BAR GRAPHS

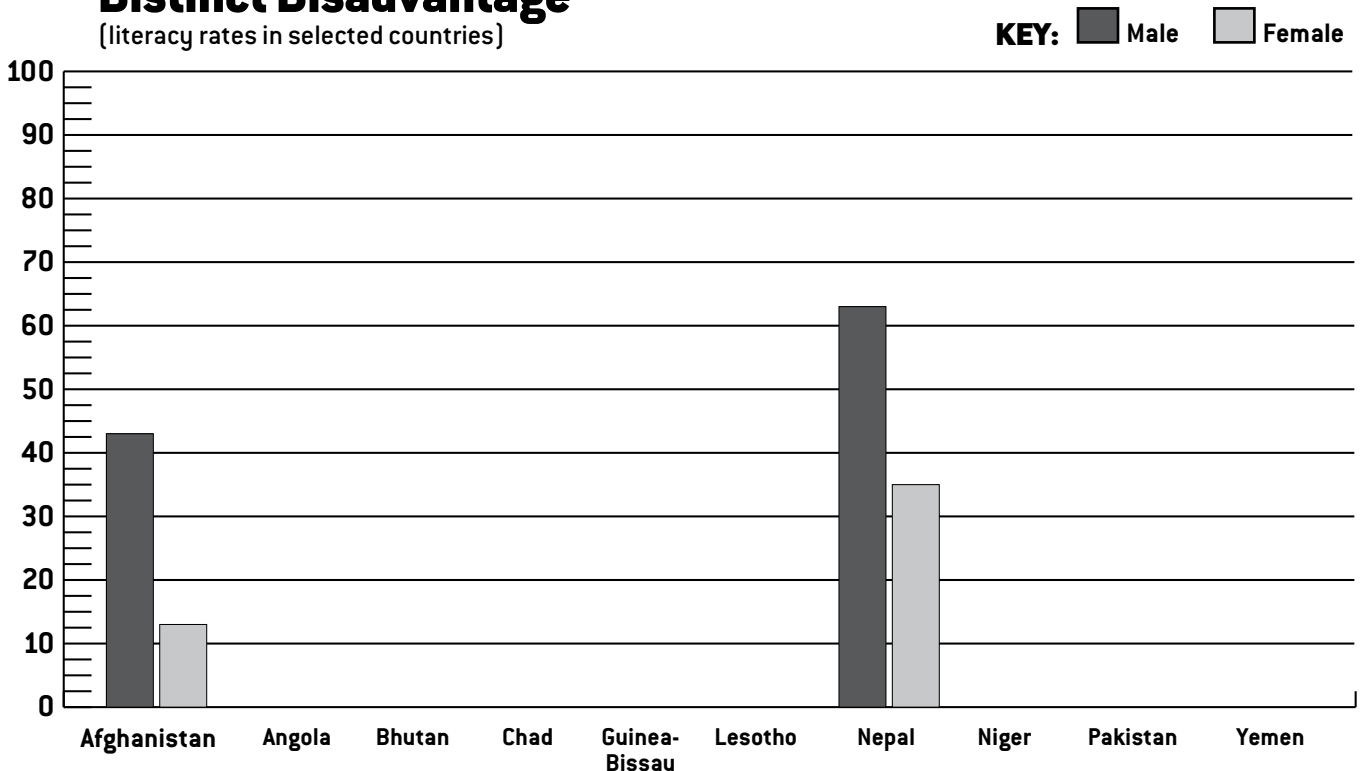
READY TO READ?

In countries with the highest literacy rates, the statistics for males and females are usually equal. But in many undeveloped countries around the world, there is a sizable literacy-rate gap between the sexes. Use the World in Focus tables (pp. 20-29) to create

a bar graph illustrating some of the most dramatic differences. Look up the figures for the countries given, then complete the graph. (We started it for you.) Once the graph is complete, use it and the World in Focus tables to answer the questions that follow.

Distinct Disadvantage

(literacy rates in selected countries)



SOURCE: World in Focus tables, Oct. 13 & 20, 2008, Junior Scholastic

QUESTIONS (Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.)

- Which of these countries has the greatest difference in the literacy rate of males and females?
- In which countries on the graph, if any, is the rate for females higher than that for males?
- Which continent has the most countries represented on this chart?
- In how many of these countries are more than half of all males able to read?
- In how many countries on this graph can more than half of all females read?
- Which poor country shown probably has the best education system overall?
- In which of these countries is the government in some state of transition?
- In which of these countries is one political party dominant?
- How might the political conditions described in #7 and #8 contribute to a low literacy rate?
- What other social factors might affect a country's literacy rate?