

INTERPRETING DATA

Who's Happiest?



What makes for a “happy” country? This diagram won’t tell us. But you can find a few clues in this issue’s World in Focus section (pp. 20-29). For each of the Top-5 happiest countries, locate these figures:

- life expectancy
- per capita GDP
- literacy rate
- human development index (HDI)

[Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.]

What do these data tell you about life in these places? What other factors might help to make a “happy” country?

[Answers are in your Teacher’s Edition.]

P.S. If you’re wondering about the United States, it ranked No. 13 out of the 34 countries surveyed.

*Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) ranking by percent of people reporting a high “evaluation of life as a whole.”
SOURCE: *OECD Factbook 2009*