

Historical Inquiry Questions for Charts

Observe

1. What information does the title provide about this chart?
2. What is the source of the information for this chart?
3. What do the legend or axis labels indicate about this chart?
4. What do you first notice about this chart?

Reflect

5. Who or what was counted on this chart?
6. Why do you think this chart is important?
7. How might this chart be biased?
8. What can be learned from examining this chart?
9. Is there anything significant missing from this chart?

Question

10. What do you see on the chart and does it make sense?
11. What does this chart indicate about the United States and the world at that time?
12. Why was this chart made?
13. Where could I find additional information related to these data?

Analyze

14. How has the United States changed since this chart was made?
15. Does the information on this chart show implications for the future?
16. Did the creator of this chart make his or her point?
17. What background information can provide historical context to the information in this chart?