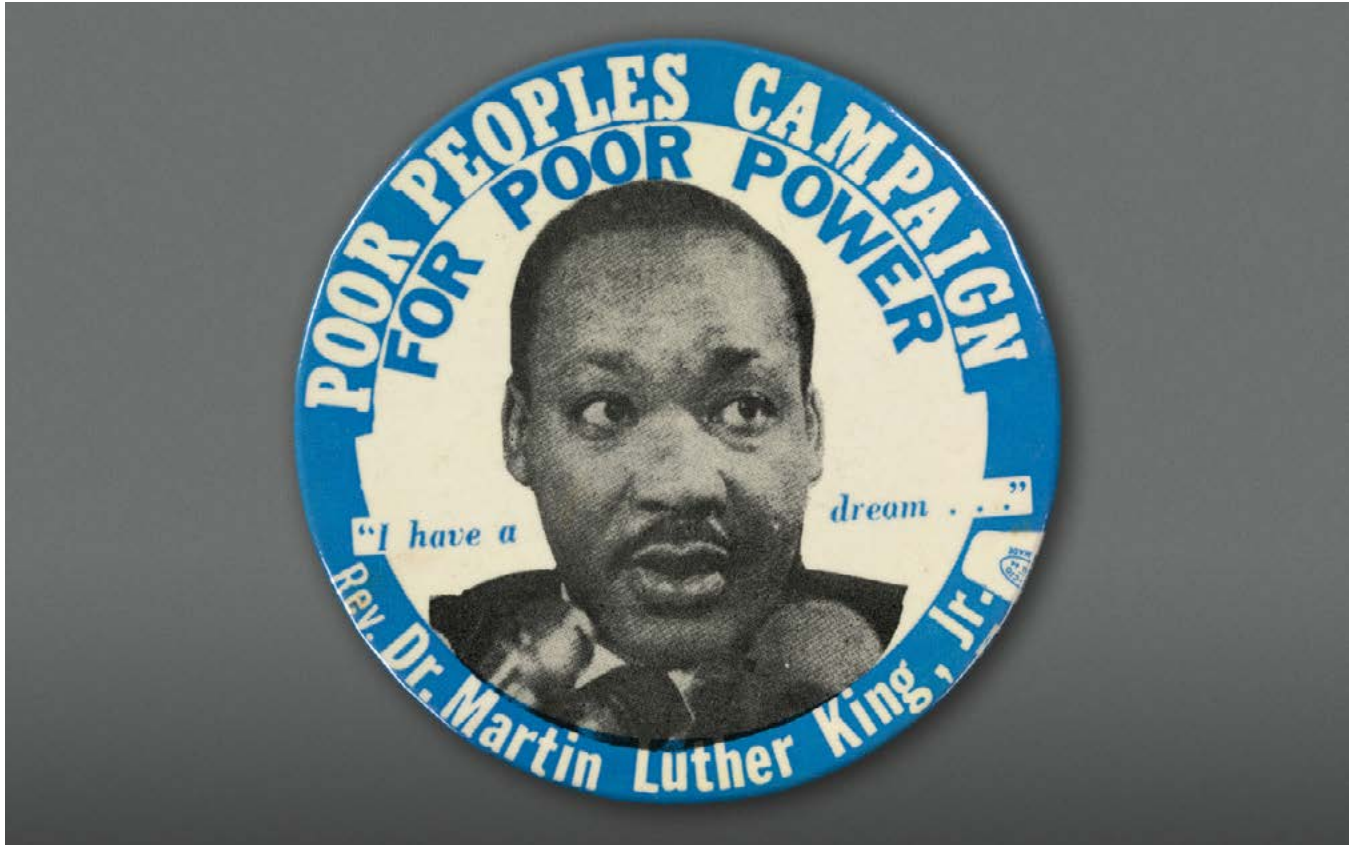


MINI-UNIT

THE POVERTY ISSUE: ANALYZE AND UNDERSTAND



The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza Collection

GRADE

9th–12th

TIME

1–3 class periods (30–50 minutes each)

BRIEF SYNOPSIS

Students will conduct research to determine trends in poverty, cost of living, minimum wage and rates of inflation from 1960–2022. Using their findings, students will analyze the effects these factors have on impoverished individuals, convert 1960s living costs into today’s money and think about viable and practical solutions to fight

against poverty. Students will participate in a short online poverty simulator and practice their financial literacy skills by making a budget for individuals or families using scenarios based on real-life experiences.

Each linked worksheet and activity can be a standalone lesson for a 45-50-minute class period and can be mixed and matched with other lessons and concepts. If applicable, each lesson plan will have extension or optional activities in which students can examine and reflect on poverty where they live.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S):

1. Students will be able to analyze trends in poverty rates from 1960-2020.
2. Students will be able to discuss the rate of inflation from 1960-2020 and its effect on impoverished individuals.
3. Students will be able to compare cost of living, minimum wage, and inflation from 1960-2020 and explain how this would impact people in poverty.
4. Students will be able to think about viable solutions to fight against the issue of poverty.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. Has the poverty rate increased, decreased, or remained the same from 1960-2020?
 - a. What factors have contributed to this rate?
2. How has inflation affected impoverished individuals?
3. Has the minimum wage increased as the cost of living has increased?
 - a. How would this affect people living in poverty

MATERIALS

- [Then and Now: Cost and Conversion](#)
- [Analyzing Poverty Data Statistics](#)
- [The Plights of Poverty: Putting Yourself in Their Shoes](#)
- Technology Device (iPad, Computer, tablet, etc.)
- Calculator

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Each year, the U.S. Census Bureau releases the poverty rates and data for the prior year. In 2020, approximately 37.2 million people, or 11.4% of the United States' population, were living in poverty. Destitution and hunger are issues that extend beyond civil rights into the realm of human rights and can affect individuals regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, age or religious affiliations. Since January 1964, when President Johnson announced his "War on Poverty", there have been steps taken to aid those living in less-than-ideal circumstances but there is no instant fix. While federal programs in place can provide aid, the day-to-day plights of the impoverished can leave them feeling grim and helpless.

Historically, America's poverty rate has steadily declined since the initiation of the War on Poverty; however, it is still an issue touching the lives of millions today. By examining the causes, struggles, issues, and other factors associated with poverty, we can continue moving in the forward direction and contribute to this fight through the power of knowledge.

TEXAS ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES (TEKS)

HIGH SCHOOL

ECONOMICS

§113.31 (c) (9) (A) Interpret economic data including unemployment rate, gross domestic product, gross domestic product per capita as a measure of national wealth, and rate of inflation

§113.31 (c) (21) (A) Analyze economic information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions.

§113.31 (c) (21) (E) Evaluate economic data using charts, tables, graphs, and maps.

UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1877

§113.41 (c) (30) (A) Create a visual representation of historical information such as thematic maps, graphs, and charts.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

§113.44 (c) (19) (B) Create a product on a contemporary government issue or topic using critical methods of inquiry.

§113.44 (c) (19) (E) Evaluate government data using charts, tables, graphs, and maps.

SOCIOLOGY

§113.46 (c) (5) (C) Analyze social problems in selected US subcultures.

§113.46 (c) (5) (D) examine counterculture movements and analyze their impact on society as a whole.

§113.46 (c) (10) (B) define poverty and its components and analyze poverty's impact on the individual and society.

PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY

§113.49 (c) (1) (A) Differentiate between needs and wants in evaluating spending decisions.

§113.49 (c) (2) (C) Develop a budget that incorporates short-, medium-, and long-term financial goals.

§113.49 (c) (4) Earning and spending. The student critically evaluates consumption decisions.

MINI-UNIT INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Students will complete the Price and Inflation Comparison Worksheet.
 - a. They will gather prices of specific items from 1960 and 2022.
 - b. Students will use a math equation to find the change in price as a percentage.
 - c. Students will take the data from the tables and answer the reflection questions.
2. Students will complete the Poverty Data Analysis activity.
 - a. Students will analyze poverty data by comparing trends in race and ethnicity from the 1960s to 2020
 - b. Students will be reflecting on these trends and examine possible reasons for the cyclical issue of poverty.
3. Students will work through the Poverty Budget Simulation Activity
 - a. Students will experience a virtual poverty simulation through the SPENT website.
 - b. After this online experience, students will discuss some misconceptions surrounding poverty.
 - c. In small groups, students will be given scenarios with monthly incomes and must create a budget.
 - d. They will reflect on questions to gain a deeper understanding of the struggles of those in poverty.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Inflation Calculator](https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm)

Students will use this resource to calculate the buying power of in 1960 and 2022.

https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm

- [The People History Comparison of Prices Over 90 Years](https://www.thepeoplehistory.com/70yearsofpricechange.html)

A listing of average costs of goods and services and average wages by decade from 1930 through 2021

<https://www.thepeoplehistory.com/70yearsofpricechange.html>