

## H.S. Level Learning Activity: The Map of Freedom, 2000

The *Map of Freedom* reflects the findings of Freedom House’s 1999-2000 survey *Freedom in the World*. The survey rates each country on a seven-point scale for both political rights and liberties (1 represents the most free and 7 the least free) and then divides the world into three broad categories: “Free” (countries whose ratings average 1-3); “Partly Free” (countries whose ratings average 3-5.5); and “Not Free” (countries whose ratings average 5.5-7). The ratings are not merely assessments of the conduct of governments. Rather, they are intended to reflect the reality of daily life. According to Freedom House, in “Free” countries, citizens enjoy a high degree of political and civil liberties.

The following countries are among those listed as “Free” in the survey by Freedom House: Africa: South Africa; Asia: India, Philippines; South America and the Caribbean: Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guyana, Jamaica; Europe (former Soviet bloc): Poland.

### Activities

1. Examine the chart below assembled from information provided by Freedom House ([www.freedomhouse.org](http://www.freedomhouse.org)), the CIA World Factbook ([www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook](http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook)), and UNESCO ([unesco.org](http://unesco.org)). What can we learn about a country from this information?
2. Locate the countries listed on the chart on a world map. Check out the website ([www.lib.utexas.edu/libs/pcl/map\\_collection/map\\_collection.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/libs/pcl/map_collection/map_collection.html)).
3. Many of the countries called “Free” in this survey have a history of dictatorship and social inequality and some are very poor. In your opinion, can people in living the countries listed above be considered “Free” in a meaningful sense? Explain.
4. For a point of comparison, the same information is provided for the United States and Japan, two major economic powers that are also considered “Free” countries and China, Cuba, and Saudi Arabia, nations that received “Not Free” ratings from Freedom House. Do you believe the Freedom House ratings accurately describe the level of freedom in these countries? Explain.

Country	Political / Civil Liberty	Population	% Literate Male/ Female	% Unemployed/ Average Income (U.S. Dollars)	Birth Rate/ Infant Deaths (per 1,000)	Life Expectancy (Years)
China	7 / 6	1,246,871,451	90 / 73	8-10% / \$3,100	15.0 / 43.3	69.9
Cuba	7 / 7	11,096,395	96 / 95	6.8% / \$1,560	12.9 / 7.8	75.7
Dominican Rep.	2 / 3	8,129,734	82 / 82	16% / \$5,000	25.9 / 42.5	70
El Salvador	2 / 3	5,839,679	73 / 70	7.7% / \$3,000	26.1 / 23.3	70
Guyana	2 / 2	705,156	99 / 97	12% / \$2,500	18.2 / 48.6	61.8
India	2 / 3	1,000,848,550	66 / 38	NA / \$1,720	25.3 / 60.8	63.4
Jamaica	2 / 2	2,652,443	81 / 89	16.5% / \$3,300	20.2 / 13.9	75.6
Japan	1 / 2	126,182,077	99 / 99	4.5% / \$23,100	10.4 / 4.0	80.1
Philippines	2 / 3	79,345,812	95 / 94	9.6% / \$3,500	27.8 / 33.8	66.5
Poland	1 / 2	38,608,929	99 / 98	10% / \$6,800	10.6 / 12.7	73
Saudi Arabia	7 / 7	21,504,613	72 / 50	NA / \$9,000	37.3 / 38.8	70.5
South Africa	1 / 2	43,426,386	82 / 82	30% / \$6,800	25.9 / 51.9	54.7
United States	1 / 1	272,639,608	99 / 99	4.5% / \$31,500	14.3 / 6.3	76.2

Note: Many figures are estimates and governments may use different definitions when reporting data. NA means information is not available.

