

Section 3: Guided Reading and Review

Poverty



A. As You Read

As you read Section 3, fill in two supporting facts or details under each main idea by answering each question.

Main Idea: The U.S. Census Bureau has developed measurements to calculate the number of poor.

1. What condition must exist for everyone in a household to be counted as poor? _____

2. What does the poverty rate help us understand? _____

Main Idea: Poverty has a number of root causes.

3. What do statistics show about a lack of education contributing to poverty? _____

4. What has the divorce rate shown about poverty? _____

Main Idea: Knowing how the nation's total income is distributed helps people understand poverty.

5. What percentage of the nation's total income does the lowest 40 percent of the population receive? _____

6. What two key factors contribute to the differences in income distribution? _____

Main Idea: The government has various programs and policies to combat poverty.

7. What programs and laws help working people achieve an adequate income? _____

8. How might the welfare reform program help reduce poverty? _____

B. Reviewing Key Terms

Complete each sentence by writing the correct term in the blank.

9. The _____ is the graphed curve that illustrates income distribution in the economy.
10. The program that requires work in exchange for assistance is called _____.
11. The _____ is the percentage of people in a particular group who are officially considered living in poverty.
12. The level of income below which income is insufficient to support a family or household is called the _____.