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World Wide Worries

By Carli Entin

- Does where you live determine what you worry about? Read a quadrant graph to find out.

Do you worry about issues facing the world, such as global warming, crime, and war? Or are you more focused on personal matters, such as family issues, bullies, and your future? Or maybe nothing bothers you. Believe it or not, your location might determine your worries!

A recent survey of young people around the world showed that in wealthier, stable nations, teens have fewer overall worries, global or personal. In countries with less political stability, global concerns are top youth issues. And in countries with high pressure to succeed, personal worries often take center stage.

Lena, 14, lives in a country low on both personal and global worries--the Netherlands. She told *MATH*, "Here, everything is good, and I think maybe they have more problems in other countries."

Meanwhile, in Japan, Toshihisha--also 14--is very concerned about global issues. "We watch the news and know about what's happening in the world," he said. "The places we live are getting dirty and they will be hard for humans to live in. I'm afraid of war. And I worry about the financial crisis in the world."

But while young people in some countries worry more than others, the way they deal with stress is often the same: "When I talk to my friends," Toshihisha told us, "my worries go out of my mind!"

What to Do

The quadrant graph below is based on a survey of tweens and teens in 31 different countries. Read "Quadrant Graphs" below. Use the graph to answer the questions. (Do not worry about the numbers on the axes! They are based on a complicated formula used by the survey company.)

Quadrant Graphs

- A quadrant graph is divided into four sections by an x- and a y-axis. Each data point fits into one of the four sections.
- The x-axis on this graph shows how each country's teens compare with



other countries' teens in "global/society worries." The farther a country is to the right on that axis, the more the young people worry about global issues. The farther to the left, the less they worry about global issues. The average level of worry is represented by 0.

- The y-axis on this graph shows how each country's teens compare with other countries' teens in "personal worries." The higher a country is on that axis, the more the young people worry about personal issues. The lower, the less they worry about personal issues. Again, the average level of worry is represented by 0.

- As a result of these divisions, each country falls into one of four *quadrants* on the graph: Mainly Global/Societal Worries, Mainly Personal Worries, Both Personal and Global/Societal Worries, and Not Many Worries.

1. In which quadrant is the United States located: Mainly Global/ Societal, Mainly Personal, Both Personal and Global/Societal, or Not Many Worries?

2. In which quadrant on the graph are there the...

a. most countries? _____

b. fewest countries? _____

3. According to the graph, young people in the U.S. have...

- A. more personal worries than in the United Kingdom.
- B. more global worries than in Brazil.
- C. fewer global worries than in Spain.

4. Which country's young people worry the most about...

a. personal issues? _____

b. global issues? _____

5. Which country's young people worry the least about...

a. personal issues? _____

b. global issues? _____

Talk About It

What do you worry most about: personal issues or global/societal issues? How do you think where you have grown up has affected what you worry about?

Answers

1. Mainly Personal

2a. Not Many Worries (11)
b. Mainly Personal (4)

3.C

4a. Ireland
b. Brazil

5a. Japan
b. Netherlands



Quadrant Graph: Worries of People

(Credit: Courtesy of Habbo)

Talk About It: Answers will vary

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