



ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM  
& EDUCATION CENTER

## “WORKING TOWARDS” QUIZ ANSWER KEY

**Question #1: How many people around the world lack access to basic sanitation services and clean water?**

**Answer: 2.4 billion (1 in 3 people worldwide)**

According to the United Nations and World Health Organization, clean, accessible water for all is an essential part of the world we want to live in. There is sufficient fresh water on the planet to achieve this. But due to poverty and/or poor infrastructure, every year millions of people, most of them children, die from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation, and hygiene.

Water scarcity, poor water quality, and inadequate sanitation negatively impact food security, livelihood choices, and educational opportunities for poor families across the world. Drought afflicts some of the world’s poorest countries, worsening hunger and malnutrition.

By 2050, at least one in four people is likely to live in a country affected by chronic or recurring shortages of fresh water.

**Questions #2: Women working full-time in the US make an average of 90 cents for every dollar men earns.**

**Answer: False**

Across race and ethnicity, women in the United States are paid just 80 cents for every dollar paid to men. That’s more than \$10,000 less per year — the equivalent of more than one year of food, 14 months of child care, or the full cost of tuition and fees at a two-year community college.

For women of color, double prejudice of race and gender lead to even more punishing wage gaps. At the current pace of change, women of color will have to wait more than a century to reach pay parity with white men. (National Partnership for Women and Families)

**Questions # 3: Globally how many youth and adults cannot read and write?**

**Answer: 758 million**

[UNESCO](#) (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) views acquiring and improving literacy skills throughout life as an intrinsic part of the right to education. The “multiplier effect” of literacy empowers people, enables them to participate fully in society, and contributes to improved livelihoods.

Literacy is also a driver for sustainable development in that it enables greater participation in the labor market, improved child and family health and nutrition, reduces poverty, and expands life opportunities.

Globally, however, at least 750 million youth and adults still cannot read and write and 250 million children are failing to acquire basic literacy skills. This results in an exclusion of low-literacy and low-skilled youth and adults from full participation in their communities and societies.

To advance literacy as an integral part of lifelong learning and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNESCO takes the following approaches to promote literacy worldwide, with an emphasis on youth and adults:

- Building strong foundations through early childhood care and education
- Providing quality basic education for all children
- Scaling-up functional literacy levels for youth and adults who lack basic literacy skills
- Developing literate environments

**Question #4: All fifty states in the U.S. perform same-sex marriages.**

**Answer: True**



On June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a landmark ruling that granted same-sex couples a constitutional right to marry. The 5-4 decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* legalized gay marriage nationwide, including in the 14 states that did not previously allow gays and lesbians to wed. The decision rested in part on the court's interpretation of the [14th Amendment](#); the justices ruled that limiting marriage only to heterosexual couples violates the amendment's guarantee of equal protection under the law.

The U.S. is among more than 20 countries or jurisdictions that allow gay and lesbian couples to wed. The first nation to legalize gay marriage was the Netherlands, which did so in 2000. Since then, several other European countries – including Spain, France, all of Scandinavia and, most recently, Ireland – have begun to sanction gay marriage. Outside of Europe, same-sex marriage is now legal in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Uruguay, as well as in parts of Mexico. (PEW Research Center)

**Questions #5: The United States incarcerates more of its citizens than any other nation in the world.**

**Answer: True**

According to the Department of Justice, there are 2.2 million people in the nation's prisons and jails—a 500% increase over the last 40 years. Changes in law and policy, not changes in crime rates, explain most of this increase. The results are overcrowding in prisons and fiscal burdens on states, despite increasing evidence that large-scale incarceration is not an effective means of achieving public safety. The United States has 5 percent of the world's population but nearly [25 percent](#) of its prisoners.

Since 2002, the United States has had the highest incarceration rate in the world. Although prison populations are increasing in some parts of the world, the natural rate of incarceration for countries comparable to the United States tends to stay around 100 prisoners per 100,000 population.

Sentencing policies, implicit racial bias, and socioeconomic inequity contribute to racial disparities at every level of the U.S. criminal justice system. Today, people of color make up 37% of the U.S. population but 67% of the prison population. Overall, African Americans are more likely than white Americans to be arrested; once arrested, they are more likely to be convicted; and once convicted, they are more likely to



face stiff sentences. Black men are six times as likely to be incarcerated as white men and Hispanic men are more than twice as likely to be incarcerated as non-Hispanic white men.



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