

Answers to Questions

DATA MATRIX QUESTIONS

1. Most of the bag stringers are in what age range?

The ages range from 20 to 83 with one not noted. There are three stringers in their 60s.

2. Do most of the bag stringers have other income? How do they make their money other than bag stringing?

Most stringers have other income. Some have farm income and others have spouses that work in factories or for the government.

3. What is the average income of the twelve tobacco bag stringers? This will be an estimate.

An estimate might be about \$25.00 a month without stringing. About \$40.00 a month with stringing. These are estimates as the information is sketchy at best. Teachers could ask the students to figure these figures to a much more exact nature. The important information here is that tobacco bag stringing was a very sizable portion of the monthly income for most of these families.

4. Look at the information about Mrs. W. H. Bryant. Calculate their average monthly (four weeks) income and average winter monthly expenses. Are they able to survive without the tobacco bag stringing?

In the winter (counting about \$3.00 a month for coal) they need approximately \$53.00 a month. They make between \$40.00 to \$60.00 a month without the bag stringing. It is most likely that they need the extra \$10.00 a month from bag stringing to pay their expenses in the winter.

5. Do most of the bag stringers own or rent their home?

Of the answers given, two rent and four own. For the six others, the exact information is not indicated.

6. Why do you think the interviewers included the condition of the home and the children in their data? What does this information tell you?

Answers will vary.

7. What do most of the bag stringers use their bag income for?

Most of the bag stringers use their income for food and other necessary expenses.

8. From the data that you have collected, organize the tobacco bag stringers from most needy to least needy. Come up with a class consensus on this.

This will vary. It could lead to a lively class discussion as students determine what is the definition of needy in their view.

9. How does data such as you have investigated help historians to better understand the past?

Answers will vary. Students should understand that historians look at data such as this in the form of census records, ship manifests, and other statistical information. This would be a good place, though, to remind the students that this information was taken by people hired by the corporation and that they were also relying on credible information on the part of the participants. Both groups could have bias in this situation as they wanted to continue to be able to work on the tobacco bag stringing.