

HOW MUCH ARE THOSE JEANS?

Activity Objective:

Girls calculate the global exchange rate within the context of their own lives.

Toward Leadership Outcomes:

Through this activity, girls will:

- ✓ Feel connected to their community—Girls feel that they are part of a larger community and recognize the importance of building diverse, supportive social networks for their personal and leadership development. **(Connect)**

Experience Overview:

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2 minutes | <i>Introduction (Talking Points)</i> |
| 40 minutes | <i>HOW Much are Those Jeans?</i> |
| 10 minutes | <i>Reflection/Discussion</i> |

Supplies Needed:

- ✓ Pens or pencils (enough for each girl)
- ✓ Large pad and marker (or chalkboard)
- ✓ Calculator (optional; to check work)

Prepare Ahead:

- ✓ Bring girls' completed "Crunch the Numbers" charts (from Financial Flair Activity 1)
- ✓ Make copies of the "Exchange Rate" chart.
- ✓ Review the "Exchange Rate" chart country list and, if necessary, familiarize yourself with the major cities in each country.
- ✓ Read over the entire activity before meeting with girls.

FINANCIAL FLAIR ACTIVITY 2

CONNECT:

- » Feel connected to their community

Step-by-Step Instructions:

» Introduction (Talking Points) (2 minutes)

- ✓ Say something like this: “In a different meeting, we learned how much it costs to be you and to afford the things you have and like to do. Today, we will see how much your life would cost if you happened to be a middle school girl in another country.”

» How Much Are Those Jeans? (40 minutes)

- ✓ Distribute pens or pencils.
- ✓ Distribute girls’ completed “Crunch the Numbers” charts (from Financial Flair Activity 1) and distribute copies of the “Exchange Rate” chart.
- ✓ Ask each girl to pick a country on the list and, pretending she is from that country, create an identity (a name and city she is from, etc.). If time allows, ask each girl to share her identity aloud.
- ✓ As a group, choose an item from the “Crunch the Numbers” chart—such as food or clothing for the week—and calculate (on a large pad) how much that cost would be in another country. If necessary, review rounding numbers to .5 or to whole numbers.
- ✓ Ask each girl to calculate how much one week of her life (from her own “Crunch the Numbers chart”) would cost in the country she chose.

» Reflection/Discussion (10 minutes)

Ask girls:

- ✓ “Look closely at your own personal spending log. Do you think the spending log of your ‘pretend girl’ would look similar? How might it be the same? How might it be different?”

HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER?

Think about extending this activity and letting girls do some research of their own. Girls can look up current exchange rates, find out what currency is called and what the denominations are in other countries, and learn what life is like for their global sisters. What is the cost of living for that country? What is the average salary in America, and how does it compare to the average salary in other countries? What would one hundred American dollars buy in another country?

Mix it Up!

Guiding Middle School Girls to Success



» Reflection/Discussion (continued)

Ask girls:

- ✓ “Has anyone ever visited any of the countries on this list? Can you tell us one strong impression that country left on you? For example, was there one specific thing you noticed that was really different in that country?”
- ✓ “If you could meet a girl from any country in the world and have a chance to visit her, which country would it be?”