

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Home Learning Day

Math

Read the Air Pollution Article

Science

- Complete the Production Graphing Practice (8 questions)

- Be sure to complete the graph

ELA

Read "I Used to Be Homeless"

by Jessica Press &amp; Rebecca Zissou

SS

- Answer the Map Skills questions on a separate sheet of paper

- Complete the Write About It on the written response paper provided

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

HR Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please return this packet (completed) to your homeroom teacher by Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.



JS 360°

After growing up  
in an abusive  
environment, Han,  
now 18, sought  
safety at this youth  
homeless shelter  
in Ogden, Utah.



**Online Extra!**

Don't miss our inspiring  
video of formerly  
homeless teens  
talking about their  
challenges—and how  
they overcame them.



**U.S. HOMELESSNESS CRISIS**

# "I Used to Be Homeless"

Hundreds of thousands of American teens will be homeless at some point this year. Find out what it's like to be one of them—and what you can do to help.

BY JESSICA PRESS AND REBECCA ZISSOU



**As You Read, Think About:** What—if anything—should the government do to help young people in crisis?

## THE FIRST NIGHT

**T**HAN\* slept in a homeless shelter, she cried into her pillow for hours. Then 17, Han had grown up in an abusive environment in Ogden, Utah. According to the teen, her mother often lashed out—both physically and verbally. As a result, Han was in constant fear for her life.

With no family members able to take her in and nowhere else to turn, Han eventually made the gut-wrenching decision to run away. She packed as much as she could fit into a backpack—some clothes, a toothbrush, and a comb—and set out for a nearby homeless shelter.

Looking back on her first night there, Han, now 18, recalls lying on a wooden bunk bed in a room with three other girls. At the time, she was overwhelmed by a combination of fear, sadness, and relief.

"I knew I was finally safe," says Han. "But at the same time, I felt like I'd just lost everything."

Han was just one of an estimated 700,000 American teens ages 13 to 17 who are on their own and homeless each year. Without a permanent home with their families, they're forced to move from one friend's house to another or to sleep in shelters, cars, or motels. Sometimes, they have to sleep outside—in parks or alleys.

Like Han, most homeless teens have run away to escape abuse or a family member's drug or alcohol problems. Others have been kicked out after clashing with a parent over their religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

When teens experience home-

lessness on their own, they face unique—and staggering—challenges. They often suffer from severe stress, depression, addiction, or loneliness. Many of them lack a strong support system, such as trusted friends and relatives they can turn to for help. Some struggle to stay in school, putting their ability to get jobs in the future in jeopardy.

**1 in 30**  
**Share of 13- to**  
**17-year-olds in the**  
**U.S. who are on their**  
**own and homeless**  
**in a given year**

SOURCE: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago



**A BRIGHTER FUTURE**  
Savohn, now a college student in New York City, spent months living on the streets of Orlando, Florida.

"Young people experiencing homelessness have typically dealt with many forms of trauma and **adversity**," says David Howard of Covenant House, an organization that provides support for homeless teens. "These young people may not have a home, but they do have hopes, dreams, and determination."

## A Longstanding Problem

The U.S. has been dealing with teen homelessness for generations. In the 1930s, during the **Great Depression**, more than 250,000 homeless kids—known as "boxcar children"—rode freight trains across the country in search of work. Their situation improved as more jobs became available in the 1940s.

Today, youth homelessness appears to be on the rise in many areas of the country. In King County, Washington, for example, the number of homeless teens increased by 700 percent between 2016 and 2017. In San Diego, California, the number jumped by about 40 percent in that time.

One reason for the apparent increase, experts say, is that communities are getting better at collecting data on the number of homeless teens. That's a good thing, notes Howard: Having accurate figures is the first step toward addressing the problem. Still, authorities agree that the number of kids in crisis remains alarmingly high.

## Sleeping on the Streets

While the causes vary, homeless teens tend to have one thing in common. Most of them have few people—if anyone—they can rely on for help.

That was certainly the case for Savohn.\* The summer before his senior year of high school in Orlando, Florida, Savohn says he had a huge fight with his mom and was kicked out of his house.

For months, he moved from one place to another, carrying all of his belongings in a tote bag. Sometimes he got lucky and was able to stay with friends or his older sister. But on other nights, he slept on a bench at a bus stop. "It was hard to fall asleep because I was so hungry," he recalls. "I cried every night."

Through it all, Savohn continued to go to school. Depending on where he'd stayed the night before, he sometimes walked 20 miles to get to class—a journey that took about 5 hours. He couldn't →

## MEET A CHANGEMAKER

### "You're Never Too Young to Help"

When Jonas Corona, now 14, met a homeless kid his own age, he took action.

I'll never forget the first moment I was inspired to help the homeless. I was 6 years old, and my mom had taken me to hand out clean clothes to people living on the streets in Los Angeles, California, not far from our home.

We hadn't been out there long when a homeless kid about my age approached me. He was small and all alone. Unfortunately, we'd brought clothes only for adults. We had to tell him we didn't have anything for him. Watching him walk away with nothing broke my heart.

After that, I wanted to do more to help. My mom encouraged me to start my own group dedicated to the cause. So I founded an organization called Love in the Mirror.

We started small at first, gathering donations like canned fruit, clothes, and soap from kids at my school. Before long, we were delivering truckloads of donations to a local homeless shelter.



We find ways to make sure volunteering is easy and fun. Every few months, I organize a challenge where we try to make 1,000 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches in one day to give out to people in need. We also fill backpacks with pens, pencils, notebooks, and other supplies to hand out before the first day of school in the fall. All together, we've helped more than 50,000 homeless people in the Los Angeles area.

I often meet kids who think that if someone is homeless, it's his or her fault. But homeless people are just like you and me. In many cases, something happened to them that they had no control over.

It can be so easy to make a difference. Volunteer at a local shelter, donate goods, or make sandwiches with your friends to pass out on the streets. You're never too young to help.

by Jonas Corona, as told to Nell Durfee

afford to take a bus, so on those days he forced himself to wake up at three in the morning to make it to his first class.

At the time, he desperately tried to hide his situation from his classmates. "I didn't tell anybody," he says. "I felt embarrassed."

Still, Savohn remained focused on school and his passion for singing, dancing, and acting. All that hard work is now paying off.

Today, Savohn, now 20, is a freshman at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, a performing arts college in New York City. He says he's hoping to put the past behind him: "It's like starting a new life."

### "Not Broken"

Many experts agree that the U.S. can end teen homelessness—but it will require a lot of work. For one thing,

they say, the government must do more to ensure that young people are able to get the help they need *before* becoming homeless. That includes increasing access to—and funding for—mental health services, counseling for drug or alcohol addiction, and job training.

The country also needs more shelters for homeless teens who are on their own, like Han and Savohn. Nationwide, only 4,000 shelter beds are available to homeless youths who aren't accompanied by their families.

Working to end stereotypes about homeless people is another important part of the solution, says Howard.

"There's often a sense that these young people are sort of broken," he says. "But these are not broken people. They're young people who've experienced incredible

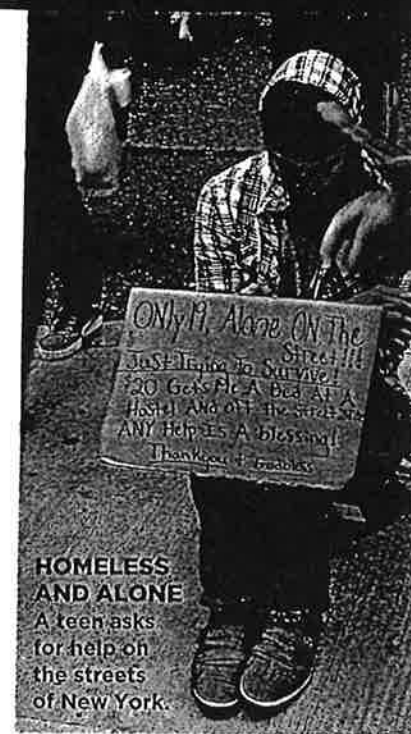
hardships. And we can help them." (See "How YOU Can Help," left.)

Despite the challenges ahead, experts say that some progress has already been made. In recent years, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded tens of millions of dollars to dozens of cities across the country in the hopes of finding **innovative** solutions to teen homelessness. Such strategies could then be shared nationwide.

Last year, for example, San Diego was given nearly \$8 million to help create a system to quickly link homeless teens to housing and other services tailored to their needs.

### Never Give Up

Han, the teen from Utah, eventually found the help she needed. During the 11 months she spent at the youth shelter, she met regularly with therapists who coached her through the crisis. With their guidance, she continued to go to school, even signing up for extracurricular activities to strengthen her leadership skills. And she gratefully accepted the



## How YOU Can Help



### Organize a Fund-Raiser

Create a charity basketball tournament or kickball league to raise money for homeless teens. Then donate the funds to a group that helps young people in crisis, such as Covenant House ([covenanthouse.org](http://covenanthouse.org)).



### Help Prepare Meals

Organize a group of your friends or family members to help out at a local food pantry, soup kitchen, or homeless shelter. (People tend to volunteer around Thanksgiving, but organizations need help year-round!)



### Collect Supplies

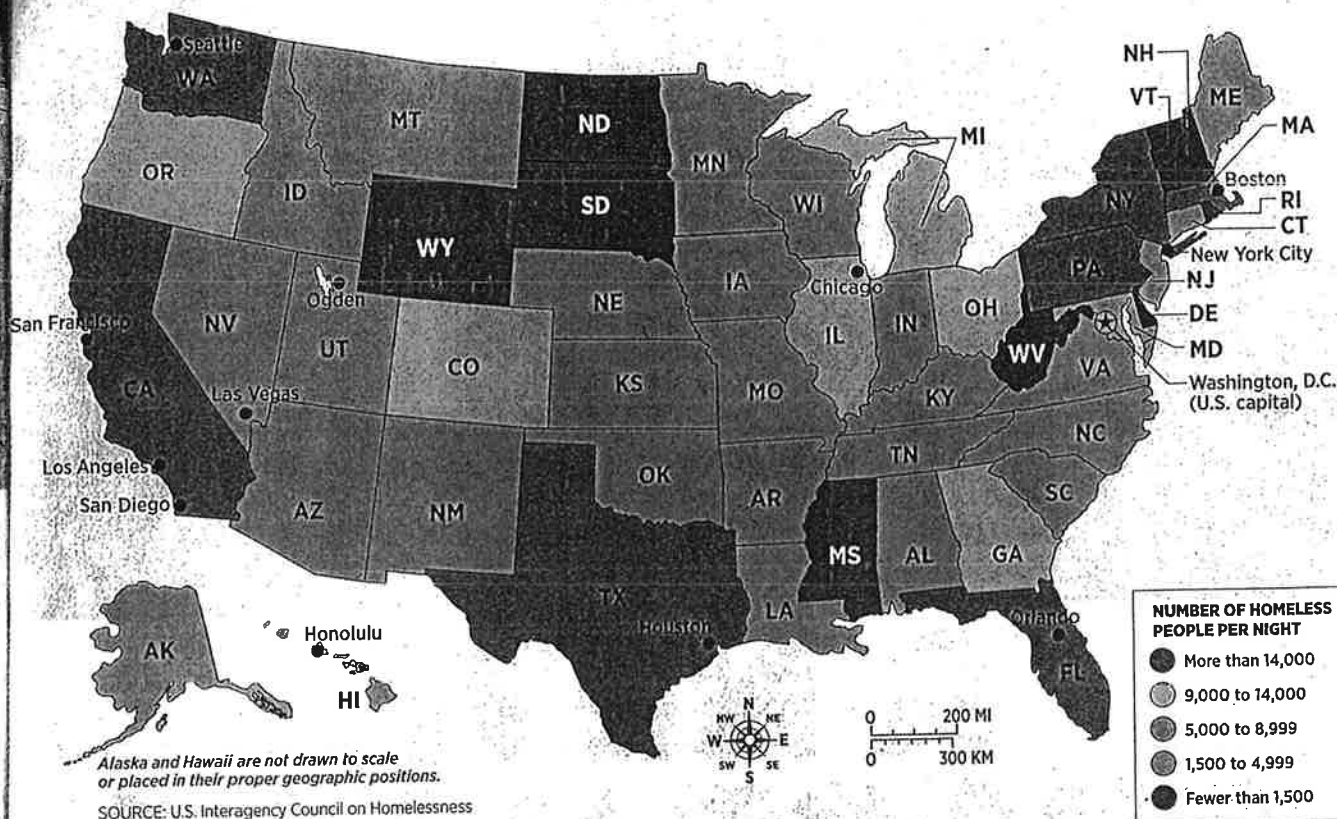
Gather socks, toothbrushes, or other items to give to homeless people. Visit [charitynavigator.org](http://charitynavigator.org) to find a group that distributes goods to the homeless in your area.



# Homelessness in the U.S.

Hundreds of thousands of people nationwide—from big cities to small towns—are homeless on a given night.

Visit **MAP SKILLS BOOT CAMP** at [junior.scholastic.com](http://junior.scholastic.com) for more geography practice.



## Map Skills

1. About how many people are homeless on a given night in the state where you live?
2. About how many people are homeless on a given night in Han's home state?
3. Which state has more homeless people on a given night: Montana or Ohio?
4. About how many people are homeless on a given night in the nation's capital?
5. How many miles separate that city and Boston?
6. In which direction would you have to travel to get from Las Vegas to San Diego?
7. In which direction did Savohn have to travel to get from Orlando to New York City?
8. Which nine states have the fewest homeless people on a given night?
9. In which northeastern states are more than 14,000 people homeless on a given night?
10. How many miles separate Houston and Ogden?

food and school supplies the shelter made available.

That support helped Han graduate from high school at the top of her class and win scholarships to college. Today, she's a freshman at Weber State University in Utah, where she's studying political science. She says

her struggle with homelessness taught her about the importance of reaching out for help and, ultimately, her own inner strength.

"You might be at the worst point in your life right now," she says. "But eventually it's going to get better. Never ever, ever give up." ♦

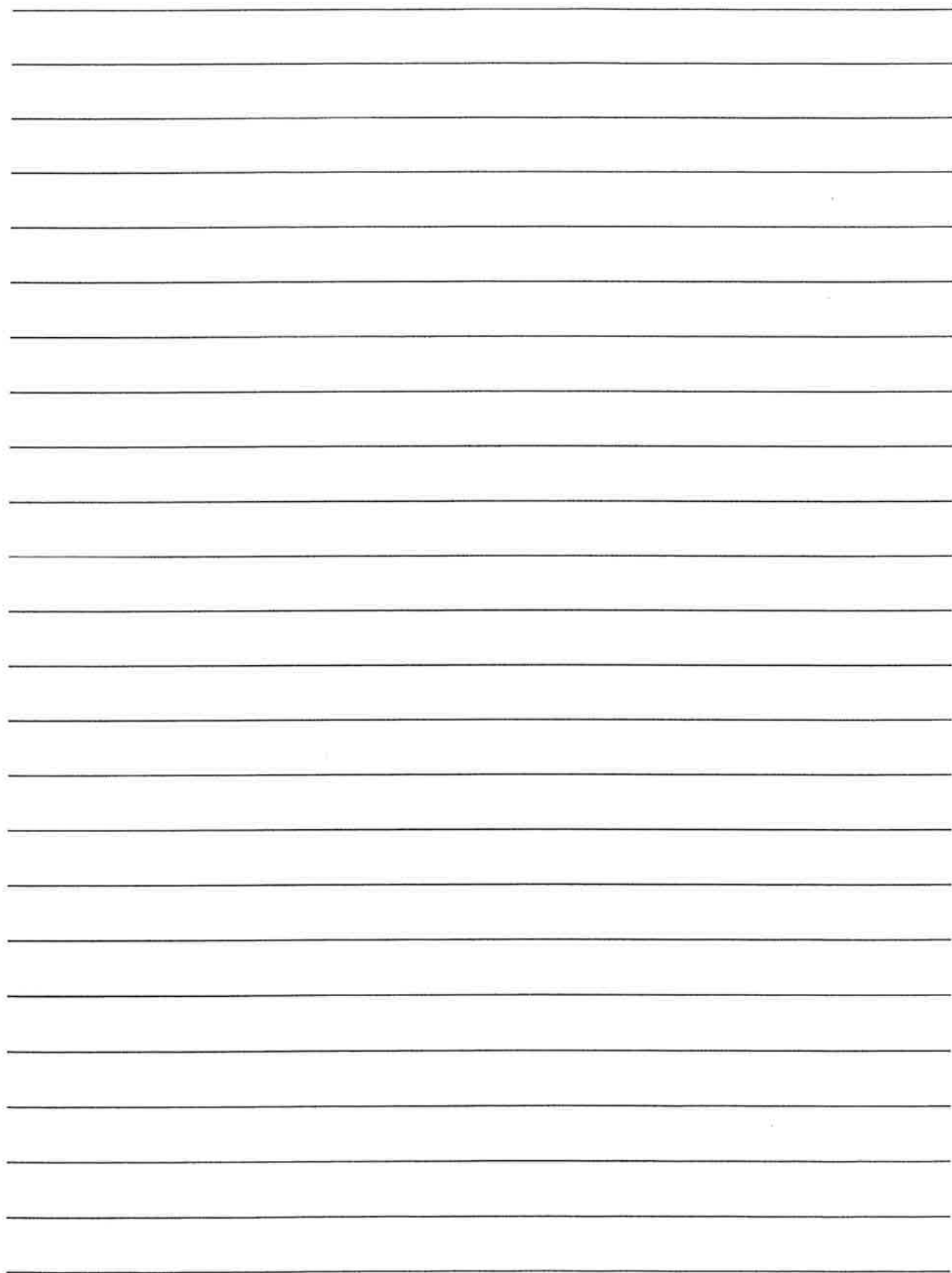


### WRITE ABOUT IT!

Imagine that the city council in your town is debating whether to build a youth homeless shelter. Use details from the article, including sidebars, photos, and the map, to write an argument essay explaining why it should—or shouldn't—be built.

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.





## Ozone

### What Is Ozone?

Ozone is a colorless gas made of three atoms of oxygen ( $O_3$ ). Most of the oxygen in the atmosphere, the oxygen that supports life, is made of only two atoms of oxygen ( $O_2$ ).

Ozone can be beneficial or harmful depending on where it is found in the atmosphere. Ozone in the troposphere, the lower atmosphere that we breathe, is considered a pollutant and is harmful to human health and vegetation.

Automobiles, power plants and factories send gaseous pollutants into the troposphere that can react in the presence of strong sunlight to form ozone. Weather conditions and geography can then cause buildups in ozone levels that greatly increase its harmful effects.

Upper-level ozone is located in the stratosphere, a layer of the atmosphere nine to 31 miles above the Earth. Ozone gas in the stratosphere forms an important and very effective protective barrier against harmful radiation from the sun by absorbing ultraviolet radiation.

### From Where Does Ozone Come?

Ozone gas in the stratosphere forms when oxygen molecules interact with ultraviolet rays from the sun. Amounts of ozone in the stratosphere are changing all the time. Under normal circumstances, ozone is continuously being destroyed and regenerated by the sun's ultraviolet rays. The seasons of the year, changing wind, and even sunspots affect ozone levels.

### What Is the Problem?

In 1985, British scientists discovered a "hole" about the size of the U.S. in the ozone layer over Antarctica. The holes are not completely devoid of ozone, but the ozone concentrations in these areas are lower than under normal conditions, allowing more ultraviolet radiation to reach the Earth's surface. The hole over

Antarctica has reappeared each year during the Antarctic winter (our summer).

More recently, ozone thinning has been found in the stratosphere above the northern half of the U.S. This hole extends over Canada and up into the Arctic. The hole was first found only in winter and spring, but more recently has continued into summer. Between 1978 and 1991, there was a 4-5% loss of ozone in the stratosphere above the U.S.

Ozone holes also have been found over northern Europe. It has become clear that the ozone layer is thinning even more quickly than first predicted.

### What Causes the Ozone Holes?

Ozone can be converted into the regular, atmospheric oxygen ( $O_2$ ) by reacting with chlorine atoms in the stratosphere. The most common ozone-destroying pollutants are in a class of chemical compounds called chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which have a diversity of uses ranging from air conditioner coolants to aerosol spray propellants. CFCs are very stable compounds that do not react easily with other materials. These properties make them ideal for many industrial applications.

However, in 1974, scientists discovered that their stable properties enable CFCs to survive in the atmosphere long enough (up to 100 years) to reach the stratosphere where they can break down and destroy ozone. Other common industrial chemicals that destroy ozone include halons, carbon tetrachloride and hydro-CFCs (HCFCs).

When CFCs that are released into the troposphere rise into the stratosphere, ultraviolet light breaks them down into other chemicals. Eventually, chlorine is produced. Free chlorine atoms (Cl) are very unstable and immediately react with the first ozone ( $O_3$ ) molecules they find to form atmospheric

oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) and chlorine monoxide (ClO). Chlorine monoxide also is unstable and reacts with free oxygen atoms to form atmospheric oxygen and another free chlorine atom. The reaction is then repeated again and again. One chlorine atom has the potential to destroy 10,000 ozone molecules before it sinks into the troposphere.

### **What Are the Effects of Depleted Ozone?**

The ozone layer is an important protective screen for life on Earth, filtering out more than 99% of the ultraviolet rays before they reach the ground. Some scientists forecast that the increasing ultraviolet radiation will tremendously increase such hazards to human health as skin cancer, immune deficiencies, and cataracts. In 1987, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimated that with a 5% increase in CFCs per year, 40 million Americans will get skin cancer over the next 88 years and of those, 800,000 will die. Even more serious is the fact that, since 1987, monitoring data indicate that the rate of ozone depletion for certain latitudes is now at levels predicted for the year 2050.

Damage to the ozone layer can reduce crop yields. Terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems also will be harmed, and plant life may be seriously affected to the point of threatening world food supplies.

### **How Do We Reduce Its Effects?**

Scientists have been measuring the ozone layer since the mid-1970s when concerns were first raised about the potentially harmful effects of CFCs on the ozone layer. The only practical approach to stopping the destruction of the ozone layer is reducing human-created pollutants that contribute to its depletion. Efforts to protect the ozone layer now involve many different nations and industries. An international agreement, called the Montreal Protocol, was established in 1987 requiring countries to cut CFC use in half by 1999. Over 90 countries have now signed the protocol. In addition, manufacturers of ozone-destroying chemicals have made major advances in CFC-alternative technologies. But even if all CFC use was halted today, the CFCs already released will continue to break down in the stratosphere and destroy ozone for decades.

Source: Project A.I.R.E., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,  
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/students/teacher/airqual.html>



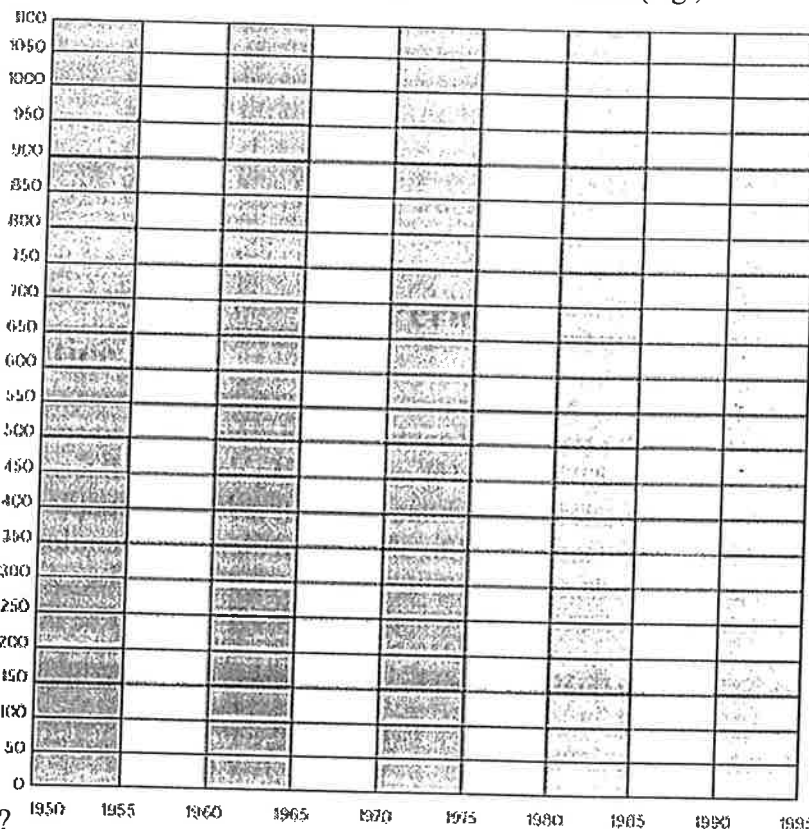
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

## (CFCs) Production Graphing Practice

This table shows about how many thousands of tons of CFCs have been produced in the last 40 years (see "Facts Around the World"). Plot the information as a double line graph on the grid below. The first line will show total production of CFCs (the second column of numbers). The second line will show how many CFCs were used as a propellant (the third column). Use a different style of line for each (e.g., dashed and solid).

Production of CFCs, 1950-90  
(in thousands of tons)

Year	Total	Used as a Propellant
1950	42	0
1955	86	0
1960	150	121
1965	330	255
1970	640	467
1975	860	480
1980	880	310
1985	1,090	310
1990	820	137



### Questions

1. What was the peak year for CFC production?
2. In what year was the biggest proportion (amount per total) of CFCs used as propellants?
3. The smallest proportion?
4. Do you predict that the production figures for 1995 will rise, stay about the same, or fall?
5. How about the propellant figures?
6. Predict what you think will happen over the next decade.
7. Will the effects that CFCs have on the environment increase, stay about the same, or decrease?
8. Will the state of the ozone layer improve or worsen?

Student Learning Day Activities for PE, Explorers, and other non-classroom functional areas to be completed by students as part of their learning packet.

<p>Students can choose any one of the activities from this Tic Tac Toe board to be completed on a Home Learning Day. Please place an x in the activity box after completing an activity.</p>		
<p><b>Technology</b></p> <p>Go to typing.com and type complete one intermediate level lesson.</p>	<p><b>Choir</b></p> <p>Go to website below and complete vocal warmup.</p>	<p><b>Band</b></p> <p>Practice for at least ½ with your instrument or a homemade instrument.</p>
<p><b>Stem</b></p> <p>Explain how you can use the engineering design process to solve the problem of needing to make lunch at home on a snow day.</p>	<p><b>Music</b></p> <p>Trace your hand and use the fingers as the musical staff to label the lines and spaces.</p>	<p><b>P.E.</b></p> <p>Completed 20 pushups and 25 sit-ups and do some physical play (outside if you can).</p>
<p><b>Art</b></p> <p>Draw a simple picture of how you spent your day.</p>	<p><b>Counselors</b></p> <p>List 5 activities you can do to feel better when stressed or angry or list 5 things that you like about yourself.</p>	<p><b>Speech</b></p> <p>Define one new word that you have not heard before.</p>

Choir warmup YouTube link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ml\\_51kN72rY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ml_51kN72rY)