






Name:

US History II

Wealth in America Today

We learned a lot about the economics of the 1920s and 1930s. Next, we will be exploring economics today and your opinions. *Read the directions carefully.*

In this activity, you will be answering questions about the **distribution of income**-- how much money people earn and who earns the money. Imagine we could line up all Americans by how much money they earn in one year (their income). Then we'll split them into the top 20%, second 20%, third 20%, fourth 20% and bottom 20% of income:

Top 20% of income	Second 20% of income	Third 20% of income	Fourth 20% of income	Bottom 20% of income
 Very rich	 Richer than average	 Average income	 Poorer than average	 Very poor

Use this idea to answer the questions below.

Questions:

1. The dollar below represents all the money Americans earn in one year. On the dollar bill below, split it up by how much money you think the top 20%, second 20%, third 20%, fourth 20% and bottom 20% of Americans **actually** earn.



2. On the next dollar bill, split it up by how much money you think the top 20%, second 20%, third 20%, fourth 20% and bottom 20% of Americans **should** earn (in a perfect world).



3. Leave this dollar blank for now, and tomorrow we'll go over what the **actual** distribution of wealth is today.

