

Name _____

Our National Debt

GO TO Netscape and type this URL:

http://www.brillig.com/debt_clock/

1) Our national debt is a very large number. What is our national debt?

2) Round this number to the nearest billion and write it here:

3) Now, write the number that you rounded in scientific notation (if you've been taught scientific notation):

4) The national debt is actually growing at the rate of _____ per day.

5) If the national debt was divided so that each of us in the United States could help to pay it off, each one of us would have to pay:

_____.

NOW, CLICK ON "SOME ANSWERS".

6) To whom do we owe all this money?

7) Over 40% or ____ (what fraction?) is owed to the _____ and other government agencies.

8) What is the difference between the national debt and the national deficit?

The national debt is _____

The deficit is _____

9) Study the graphs provided. The vertical axis represents _____ and the horizontal axis represents _____

10) Look at the second graph. Between what years was the national debt pretty constant (not showing a lot of change)? _____

11) Since what year has the national debt started growing rapidly?

12) What can you interpret from either graph? _____

a) We are spending too much money.

b) We are spending more than we are taking in.

c) We are not spending as much as we are taking in.

13) When did the national debt pass the \$5 trillion mark? _____

Assignment - Write a paragraph with at least four sentences -

14) Why are people concerned about our national debt? (You may wish to discuss the answer to this question with your Social Studies teacher, too.) _____

GO TO Population Clock -there is a link on the page or type:

<http://www.census.gov/cig-bin/popclock>

15) What is the population of the United States based on the latest census? _____

16) In the United States, a new baby is born every _____seconds and a person dies every _____ seconds. (These are estimates.)

17) Can you conclude based on the above the the US population will eventually start going down?Why or why not? Read the rest of the "Component Settins " before answering.

Name _____

Lesson 1: How Big are Big Numbers???

GO TO

<http://www.math.unh.edu/~tg/ans/thousand.html>

(THE SYMBOL ~ IS ON THE VERY TOP LEFT OF YOUR KEYBOARD, USE SHIFT.)

1) Where were you a thousand seconds ago? Take a guess _____
_____.

Now click to find the answer: _____

2) Civilization is _____ years old.

3) Where do you think you were a million seconds ago? Take a guess:

CLICK ON "FORWARD TO MILLION."

4) A million seconds ago is _____ days. Where were you?

5) Where do you think you were a billion seconds ago? Take a guess first and write it here: _____

Now, CLICK ON "FORWARD TO A BILLION."

6) One billion seconds ago is how many years? _____

7) Who was president a billion seconds ago? _____

8) When was President Kennedy shot? _____
(Terri Husted who created this lesson was in ninth grade playing the clarinet in band class when the announcement was given!)

9) What is the population of the world? _____

10) How old is the earth? _____

11) Where do you think you were a trillion seconds ago? Make a good guess and write it here: _____

NOW, CLICK ON “FORWARD TO A TRILLION.”

12) A trillion seconds ago is _____years!!!!!! WOW!!!

13) Does this help to show how big a trillion really is?

14) When was writing developed? _____

15) How many millions are there in a trillion?_____

Now, **GO TO** the next lesson: Our National Debt

Write a paragraph (4 sentences or more) explaining what you learned in this lesson:
