Student Activity Sheet #1: 
Human Geography Terms

Literacy Rate
Literacy rate is the percentage of adults in a given population who are able to read. Canada’s literacy rate is about 99 percent. What things might influence the literacy rate?

Life Expectancy
This statistic estimates the number of years that an average person is expected to live from the time of their birth. In Canada, life expectancy is 82 years for women and 77 years for men. What things might influence life expectancy?

Standard of Living (GDP Per Capita)
Standard of living measures how well people live. It uses dollar amounts in a common currency (US$), adjusted to how much can be purchased in that country for US$1, to determine the average income of each person in a country (GDP per capita). The GDP per capita income for 2004 for Canada is $29,480. What things might influence standard of living?

Infant Mortality Rate
Infant mortality is the number of infants who die before they reach age 1, per 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate for Canada for 2004 is 4.8 babies/1,000 live births. What things might influence infant mortality?

Human Development Index (HDI)
The HDI is an index designed to compare development between countries, using a variety of factors so that the countries can be ranked. The HDI compares life expectancy, adult literacy rates, school enrolment, and standard of living. A high HDI means that a country is well developed in these areas (e.g. Canada=0.943). A low HDI means that a country is not well developed in these areas, and that people often struggle just to survive (e.g. Ethiopia=0.359). Why is calculating the HDI useful?