

# Connections Between Poverty and High Death Tolls in Earthquakes

The reason you've looked at graphs about the earthquakes' death tolls and poverty is because they are related. To figure out how, work with your group to answer the questions below.

1. Which country has the lower income levels? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which country has the higher poverty rate? \_\_\_\_\_

3. In which country was the earthquake death toll higher? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What connection do you see between poverty and the number of people who died in the two earthquakes?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Now think about why this might be true. What are some of the things that a wealthy country like the United States has that might protect people when earthquakes strike? Here's one idea to get you started:

If you have enough money, you can build good, strong buildings. If you don't have much money, you might build a building that's not so strong. A building that's well constructed is less likely to collapse when there's an earthquake than a building that's not as well constructed. One reason so few people died in the 1989 San Francisco earthquake is because fewer buildings collapsed. In Haiti, on the other hand, lots of buildings fell down, and people died as a result.

Now make a list with your group of other things that make earthquakes in the United States safer than in Haiti because the United States is a wealthier country.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_