SKILLBUILDER

Interpreting a Chart

▶▶ Defining the Skill

A chart organizes information in a visual form. The information is simplified or summarized and then arranged so that it is easy to read and understand.

▶▶ Applying the Skill

The chart below lists the population, number of radios, and number of televisions in several West African nations and the United States. Use the strategies listed below to help you interpret the chart.

How to Interpret a Chart

Strategy ❶ Read the title to learn the main idea of the chart.

Strategy ❷ Read the labels across the top and down the first column of the chart. The labels in the column list the countries represented in the chart. The labels across the top tell what information is provided for each country.

Strategy ❸ Study the information in the chart. Read down the columns to compare one country with another. Read across the rows to see the communications available in each country.

Strategy ❹ Summarize the information in the chart. The title helps you clarify the main idea of the chart.

❶ **Communication in Western Africa and the United States, 2000**

❷ Country	Population	Radios	Televisions
Benin	❸ 6.6 million	620,000	60,000
Ghana	❸ 19.9 million	4,400,000	1,730,000
Liberia	❸ 3.2 million	❸ 790,000	❸ 70,000
Mali	11 million	570,000	45,000
Niger	10.4 million	680,000	125,000
Nigeria	126.6 million	23,500,000	6,900,000
United States	284.5 million	575,000,000	219,000,000

❹ This chart compares the population, the number of radios, and the number of televisions in several West African nations and the United States. In the countries of Benin and Mali, there are very few radios and televisions compared to the number of people. For example, in Mali there is one television for every 244 people. In the United States, there is more than one radio per person. In Nigeria, there is one television for every 18 people.

Write a Summary

To gain a clear understanding of the information in this chart, write a summary. It is possible to produce other data from the information in this chart. To find out how many people there are for one television or radio in each nation, divide the population by the number of televisions or radios. The paragraph above summarizes the chart.

▶▶ Practicing the Skill

Turn to page 294 in Chapter 10. Study the chart titled "Africa's Deserts," and write a paragraph that summarizes the information in that chart.