

**PEAK READINESS ACTIVITY 1a:**  
**Introduction to Independent Life - Part 1**  
Learn about how the working world works.

To complete this Learning Activity, read the materials and complete the exercises. You will need the online or printed True Life Chart. Print the Chart or open the interactive version on your computer.



True Life Chart

**Introduction to the True Life Chart**

The True Life Chart is a colored circular graph showing typical lifestyles in the United States, the education for each lifestyle, and the yearly pay received at different ages. The chart is to be used as a guide in explaining how education, career, money and lifestyle are related to each other. It also graphically shows that all life makes a full circle.

The True Life Chart will help you establish what your goals are and the life you want to make for yourself. It will help you plan your future. It shows what education can do for you, or what happens if you choose to leave school without graduating.

On the chart are five concentric circles: gray, red, blue, white and green. Each circle represents a general level of education and income. You will learn more about these in the upcoming Learning Activities. The different job classifications and amounts of pay shown in the colored circles were taken from government statistics. The amounts of pay are read in a range: \$12,000 to \$14,000 or \$24,000 to \$30,000 per year, for example.

**There are four WHITE boxes on the True Life Chart. Each topic is an important area in building a balanced life. One of these is Mental Health. The other three are:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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**On the True Life Chart, what is the age of:**

...a high school graduate?

...a college graduate?

...a graduate with a professional degree?

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**Use your dictionary and write down the definition of gross salary.**

**What is the definition of net income?**

**At what age do most people retire?**

Look at the GRAY area on the True Life Chart. Out of an average group of 100 people in the United States at age 65, how many will:

...be rich?

...be financially successful?

...work part time?

...work full time?

...be dead?

What are typical salaries in each of the colored circles of the True Life Chart, for a:

...non-graduate?

...blue collar worker?

...college graduate?

...professional?

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Explain why you think the color RED is used on the front of the True Life Chart.

Explain what the GRAY circle means to you.

In the middle of the Chart is the statement, *Life is a willing servant; once you decide what you want from it, you must bear the responsibility for your Choice* - describe what this means to you:



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