

## Chart, Graph, and Map Skills Activity

### Reading a Bar Graph

#### Learning the Skill

Bar graphs allow you to compare quantities at a glance. Each bar represents an amount—the longer the bar, the larger the amount. Bars can be either vertical (up and down) or horizontal (left to right).

A bar graph provides information along two sides, or axes, of the graph. The *horizontal axis* is the line across the bottom of the graph. What you are comparing is usually labeled there. The *vertical axis* is the line along the side. It usually has numbers, and you measure the lengths of the bars with these numbers.

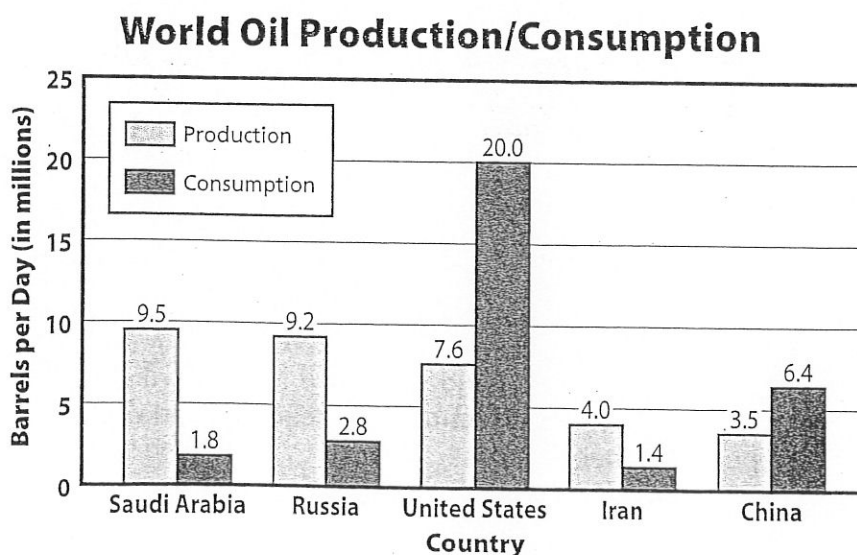
To read a bar graph, follow these steps:

- Read the title to find the subject of the bar graph.
- Study the information on the side and bottom of the graph to figure out what the bars represent.
- Compare the lengths of the bars to draw conclusions about the topic of the graph.



#### Practicing the Skill

**Directions:** The bar graph below shows the major producers of oil in the world today. Read the graph, and then answer the questions that follow.



Source: CIA World Factbook, 2006.

## Chart, Graph, and Map Skills Activity

continued

1. **Analyzing Visuals** What is being compared on this bar graph?

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2. **Analyzing Visuals** Which country produces the most oil per day?  
How many barrels of oil per day does it produce?

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3. **Identifying** Which countries consume more oil than they produce?

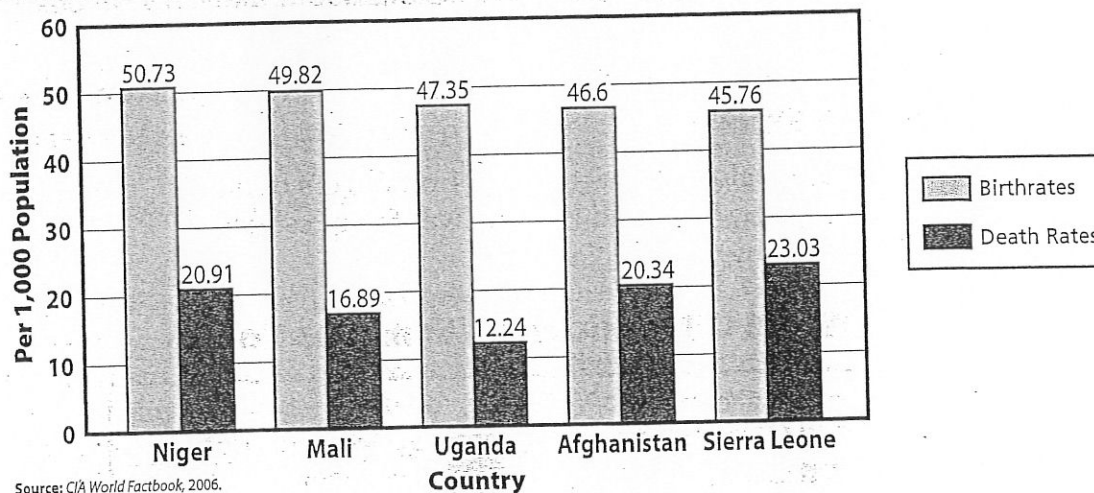
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### Applying the Skill

**Directions:** Analyze the bar graph below. Then answer the questions that follow.

**Birthrates/Death Rates of Various World Countries**



1. **Identifying** Which country on the graph has the lowest death rate per 1,000 people?

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2. **Identifying** Which countries have a birthrate that exceeds the death rate by 30 or more per 1,000 people?

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3. **Drawing Conclusions** Which of the five countries has the lowest population growth rate? How do you know?

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