

Get A Job

Key Concepts

1. Over time the way people have made a living in the Puget Sound region has changed.
2. The way people make a living in the Puget Sound area has had an impact on the waters of Puget Sound.

Human activities have had a great influence on Puget Sound. Expanding on the topics covered in "The Changing Sound," "Get A Job" examines how basic employment in the Puget Sound area has changed over the years. This activity continues to support the philosophy that it is important that your students have a view of the past as well as a sense of the present, in order to make intelligent decisions about the future of Puget Sound. Your task is to help your students recognize the connection between how people make a living and the resource which is Puget Sound.

If your class is unfamiliar with pie charts as a way to present data, spend a few minutes explaining the concept. In question 2, your students will be plotting data on a line graph. As they do so, circulate through the room providing assistance as needed. Wrap up this activity with the discussion of how employment changes have affected our "indicator species," the Olympia oyster, and how the changes impact your students.

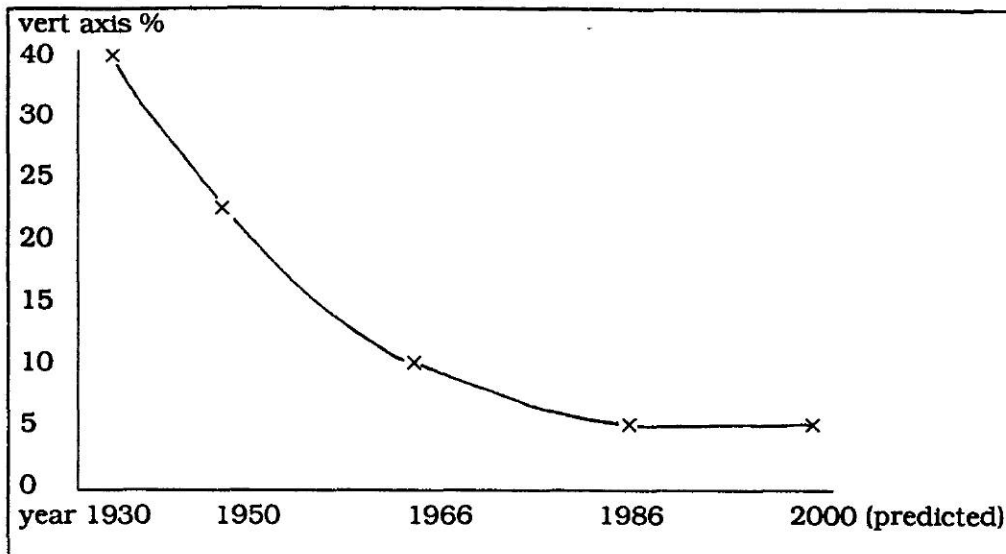
Key

1. The economy of the first non-Indian settlers was based on timber products, agriculture, fisheries, and primary products. On each of the three pie charts, your students should have combined the percentages from primary products, food products, and forest products and colored them with one color.
2. The totals for the combined employment in primary products, food products, and forest products are found in the spaces below:

year →	1930	1950	1966	1986	2000 (predicted)
total →	40.7%	22.5%	10.7%	4.2%	4.4%

TEACHER BACKGROUND

3. Plot these percentages on the following graph:

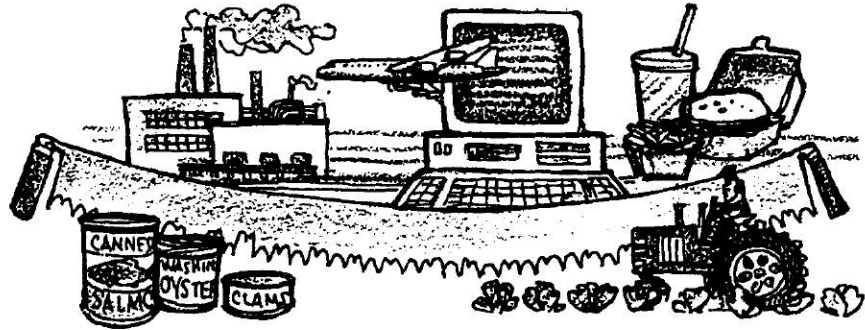


- a. Since 1930, employment in these three basic areas decreased (dramatically).
 - b. The change in percentage from 1930 to 1986 was 36.3%
 - c. The impact of these industries on the waters of Puget Sound has decreased from 1930 to 1986 because the industries have decreased in size and also because of pollution control legislation and regulations. (Note that this question asks for a judgement based on past experience. As such, a reasonable, albeit incorrect, answer for the question would be that the impact of the industries has increased because of the use of more toxic materials. This question is designed to stimulate discussion.)
4. a. From 1966 to 1986, "Other Manufacturing" decreased 6.6% (from 20.4% to 13.8%).
- b. Taken alone, this change could be expected to have improved the quality of the waters of Puget Sound because of a diminution of waste production and discharge from manufacturing processes.
5. a. From 1950 to 1986, the services sector had the largest change. The term "services sector" may have little meaning to your students. Provide examples of "service sector" jobs, from fast food clerks to physicians.
- b. From 1950 to 2000, the services sector is predicted to have the largest change.
 - c. These two observations tell us that an increasing number of people in the Puget Sound area are making their living providing services to each other. They also speak to the types of jobs which will likely be available to your students.
 - d. The exact impact of these changes on the waters of Puget Sound is not easily determined. This questions is posed to generate discussion. Several reasonable answers could be suggested by your students. For example, water quality will improve because of the decrease in other (presumably polluting) activities that allowed for the increase in service jobs. It could also be argued that service jobs increase toxic waste flowing into the Sound from grill cleaning compounds at fast food restaurants to hospital wastes. What is important in this discussion is that students recognize the interrelated nature of employment and water quality in Puget Sound.

- 6. a.** Three changes in employment from 1930 to 2000 that are most significant to you as an oyster may come from the list below:
- Decrease in forest products production resulting in a decrease in pulp and paper mill wastes.
 - Decrease in primary products (agriculture, fishing, mining) resulting in fewer oyster fishers.
 - Decrease in forest products production resulting in a decrease in erosion and siltation of oyster habitat.
 - Increase then decrease in other manufacturing resulting in changes in contaminants released into waters.
 - Other defensible answers may be suggested by your students.
- b.** The way in which each of these changes in employment statistics affect your students will vary depending upon answers in 6.a. and upon the perspective of each student. For example, one student might say that a decrease in forest products production benefits him because when he swims in the Sound, the water is cleaner. Another student might say that a decrease in forest products production means that she is unlikely to get a job at a paper or pulp plant. The object of this question is to get your students to relate this information to their lives and to get them thinking about the impact of these changes on their lives and, ultimately, on their future impact on Puget Sound. Facilitate the discussion while avoiding being judgmental.

Key Words

- basic employment
- food products
- forest products
- impact
- pie chart
- primary products



Get A Job

Since the Native American Period, changes in lifestyle for people living in Puget Sound have been great. We've seen that the way people make a living in the Puget Sound area has had an impact on the waters of Puget Sound. In the following activity you will examine how basic employment in the Puget Sound area has changed.

Materials:

- colored pencil
- ruler

1. The economy of the first non-Indian settlers was based on timber products, agriculture, fisheries, and primary products. Choose **one** colored pencil and on each of the pie charts, located on page 5-5, color the following categories:

- primary products - (agriculture, fisheries, and mining)
- food products - (food processing)
- forest products - (timber products)

2. The area of the whole pie represents 100% of the employment in Puget Sound in the year stated. The percentages noted after a particular type of employment, for example "Forest Products," tells us the percentage of people working in those jobs.

For each of the years, add the percentages of people working in these three categories:

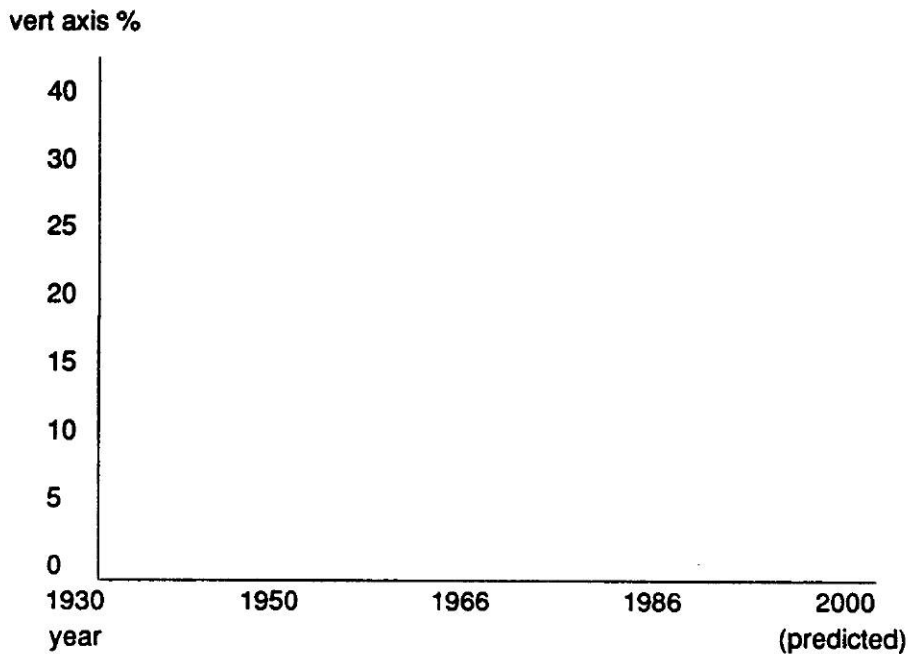
- primary products - (agriculture, fisheries, and mining)
- food products - (food processing)
- forest products - (timber products)

Record your totals in the spaces below:

year:

1930 ____% 1950 ____% 1966 ____% 1986 ____% 2000(predicted) ____%

- 3. Plot these percentages on the following graph and connect the data points with a continuous line:**



- a. What has happened to employment in these three basic areas since 1930?**
- b. What was the change in percentage from 1930 to 1986?**
- c. How do you think the impact of these industries on the waters of Puget Sound has changed from 1930 to 1986? Why?**
- 4. a. From 1966 to 1986, what change occurred in "Other Manufacturing?"**
- b. What impact might this change have had on the waters of Puget Sound? Why?**

- 5. a.** From 1950 to 1986, which sector had the largest change?
- b.** From 1950 to 2000, which sector is predicted to have the largest change?
- c.** What do these two observations tell us about changes in how people make a living in the Puget Sound area?
- d.** What impact might these changes have on the waters of Puget Sound? Why?
- 6. a.** Here's a challenge. Think of yourself as an oyster. What three changes in employment from 1930 to 2000 are most significant to you? List the three below:
- 1.**
 - 2.**
 - 3.**

b. How will each of these affect you? -

1.

2.

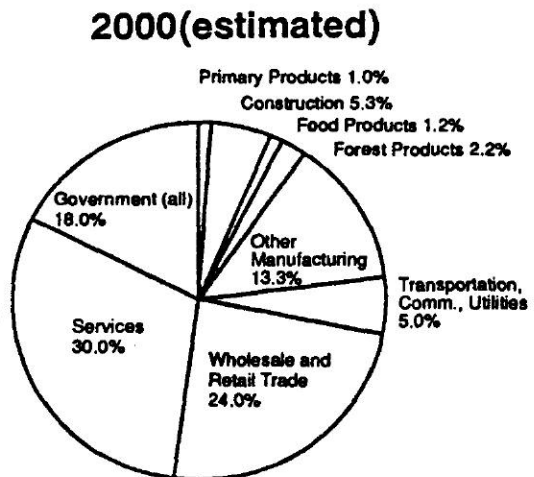
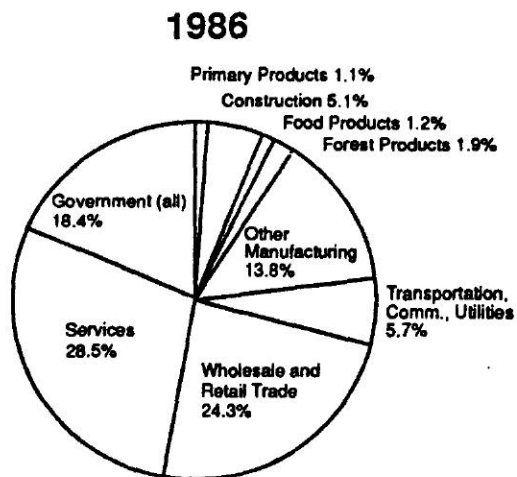
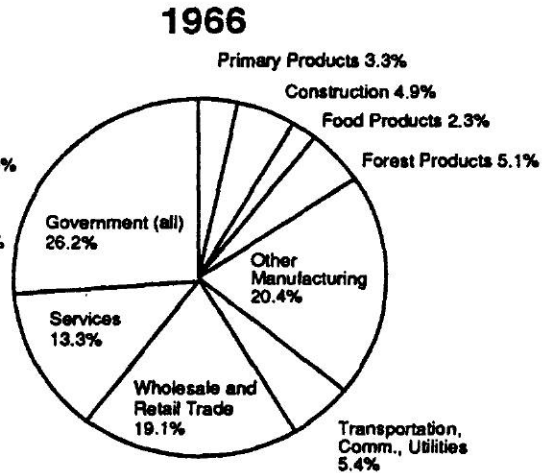
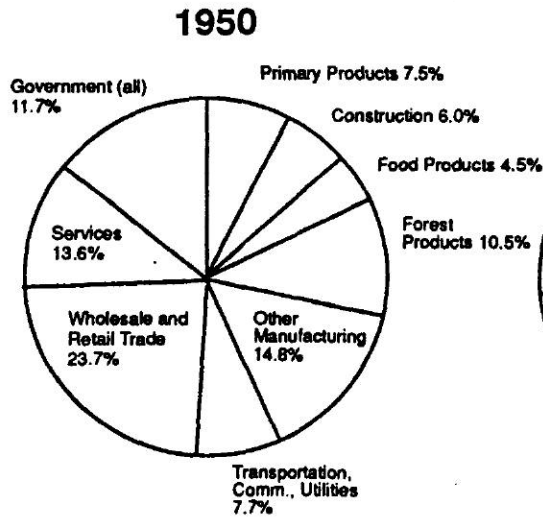
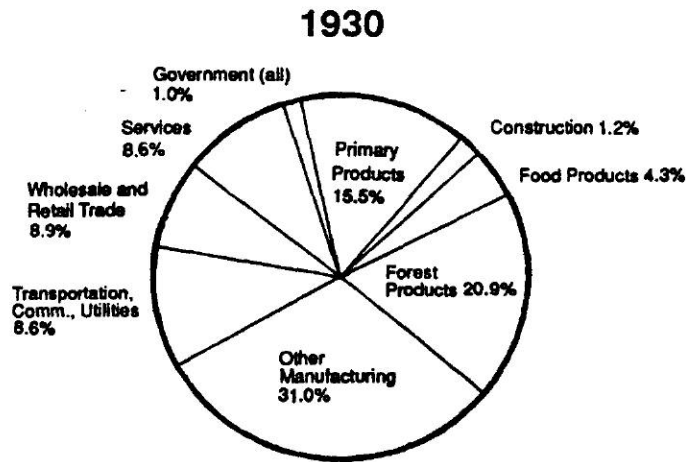
3.

BASIC EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR SECTORS

1930, 1950, 1966,
1986, and 2000(estimated)

How do people make
a living on Puget Sound?

What do your parents do?



From PSWQA
Reference: Washington Department of Employment Security, 1987