

Activity 9 The Heart Throb Mystery

Directions. Read the *Handy Dandy Guide* and the mystery. Read the clues assigned to your group. Be careful. While all the clues are correct, only some are *useful* in solving the mystery. Decide which clues are most relevant to solving the mystery. Use the clues and one or more of the ideas from the *Handy Dandy Guide* to figure out a solution to the mystery. Write your solution.

Handy Dandy Guide

1. People *choose*.
2. People's choices involve *costs*.
3. People respond to *incentives* in predictable ways.
4. People create *economic systems* that influence individual choices and incentives.
5. People gain when they *trade* voluntarily.
6. People's choices have consequences that lie in the *future*.

The Mystery

Every news stand sells magazines featuring glamorous, stylish people. Many Americans admire these attractive people. Some fantasize about meeting or even dating the heart throbs of *People Magazine*, *Glamour*, *GQ*, and the rest.

Yet social scientists have found that people who are physically very attractive—those who seem most desirable—are less likely to marry than people whose appearance is more ordinary.

You might think the heart throbs would have suitors lined up outside their doors, eager for marriage. Why is this not so? What happens to the heart throbs on the way to the altar?

The Clues

1. Celebrities are often physically attractive.
2. Some men and women choose not to date highly attractive people because they know many other people are interested in such attractive individuals.
3. Attractive people often fear that individuals take an interest in them for their appearance rather than their character.
4. Some people fear that having a highly attractive spouse invites unwelcome advances from outsiders.
5. Today young people in the United States are marrying at later ages.
6. Married couples on average earn twice as much income as unmarried couples.
7. The typical wedding in the United States costs \$12,000.
8. Support groups exist to assist unattractive people with issues related to self-esteem.

Record your solution and explain it briefly here:
