### Student Handout

Plot the GDP per capita figures for each country on the same graph. Use a different color to connect the points for each country. Then answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.

#### GDP Per Capita in International Dollars

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | France | India | Malaysia | Chile | Mexico | USSR | Germany | U.S. |
| 1929 | 4,710 | 728 | 1,682 | 3,396 | 1,757 | 1,386 | 4,051 | 6,899 |
| 1930 | 4,532 | 726 | 1,636 | 3,143 | 1,618 | 1,448 | 3,973 | 6,213 |
| 1931 | 4,235 | 711 | 1,548 | 2,333 | 1,643 | 1,462 | 3,652 | 5,691 |
| 1932 | 3,959 | 709 | 1,397 | 2,274 | 1,373 | 1,439 | 3,362 | 4,908 |
| 1933 | 4,239 | 700 | 1,440 | 2,652 | 1,501 | 1,493 | 3,556 | 4,777 |
| 1934 | 4,192 | 697 | 1,540 | 2,987 | 1,574 | 1,630 | 3,858 | 5,114 |
| 1935 | 4,086 | 680 | 1,364 | 3,056 | 1,660 | 1,864 | 4,120 | 5,467 |
| 1936 | 4,244 | 697 | 1,478 | 3,056 | 1,768 | 1,991 | 4,451 | 6,204 |
| 1937 | 4,487 | 676 | 1,308 | 3,241 | 1,796 | 2,156 | 4,685 | 6,430 |
| 1938 | 4,466 | 668 | 1,361 | 3,139 | 1,794 | 2,150 | 4,994 | 6,126 |
| 1939 | 4,793 | 674 | 1,609 | 3,178 | 1,858 | 2,237 | 5,406 | 6,561 |

Source: OECD, 2003.

1. On the whole, when did most countries hit bottom during the Great Depression?
2. Which country experienced the steepest decline in living standards?
3. Unlike all the others, one country actually experienced a steady increase in GDP per capita during the Great Depression. Which country was it? Do some research to explain why.
4. Describe the impact of the Great Depression on India.
5. Find out why Germany made such a strong recovery after 1932.
6. The Malaysian economy declined because it was heavily dependent on two exports. Do some research on the history of Malaysia to identify one of them.
7. How high were living standards in the late 1930s compared to the early decade? Had most countries recovered to 1929 levels?
8. What surprises you the most about the GDP per capita figures in this exercise? Explain why.

