

## 20<sup>th</sup> Century Modern World History: Life in the 1950s

### Swimming Pools and Bomb Shelters

It is 1953. You are married with a family. You have a good job and make good money. Since times are so good, you want to build a swimming pool for your family. However, the Americans and Soviets have begun to build large stockpiles of atomic and hydrogen bombs. You are worried about a nuclear or atomic bomb attack. You want to protect your family and to do that you want to build a backyard bomb shelter.

If an attack comes, you will have to stay in your bomb shelter for two weeks so the radiation will pass before you can come out. You need to buy supplies for the bomb shelter which will last two weeks.

If an attack does not come, you want to be able to enjoy your swimming pool.

**You have \$2000 to spend on your family. How will you spend it?**

Bomb shelter built of sheet metal (least protection from nuclear radiation): \$600  
Bomb shelter built of bricks and concrete (good protection from radiation): \$800  
Bomb shelter built of concrete with a lead lining (best protection from radiation): \$1000

In-ground swimming pool (heated): \$1000  
In-ground swimming pool (not heated): \$750  
Above-ground swimming pool: \$500

#### Shopping list for bomb shelter:

Electric fan: \$10  
Propane cooking stove: \$30  
Case of six one-gallon propane tanks: \$50  
Gas-powered chainsaw: \$30  
Kerosene heater: \$25  
Complete first aid kit: \$20  
Box of vitamins: \$15  
10 gallons of gasoline: \$5  
10 gallons of kerosene: \$10  
Case of oatmeal in a box: \$10  
Case of canned vegetables: \$10 (you need at least two)  
Case of bottled water: \$10 (you need at least three)  
Box of batteries of various sizes: \$15  
A battery powered radio: \$15  
A television: \$50  
A case of powdered milk (just add water): \$15  
10 pounds of beef jerky: \$20

# 20<sup>th</sup> Century Modern World History: Life in the 1950s

## Swimming Pools and Bomb Shelters

Which bomb shelter did you choose?  
Why?

Which swimming pool did you buy?  
Why?

Write down the items you purchased and the cost.

Starting budget: \$2000

Cost of swimming pool: -\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cost of bomb shelter: -\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Money left to stock bomb shelter: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Any money left? How much? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly explain your spending strategy. Why did you buy what you did?