

Lesson 3

The next phase of the unit deals with the people in the Illinois State Penitentiary. Below is a list of the former occupations of the inmates received by and before 1874. Working in small groups, students should examine this list and create a Venn diagram dividing the occupations in terms of jobs performed on farms and small towns and large towns and cities, or both. They should also use a dictionary to look up the meaning of obscure job titles, like **cooper** or **milliner** to help them correctly categorize each occupation.

[584]
86
57
[585]

"P."—STATISTICAL TABLE OF FORMER OCCUPATIONS of Convicts received in the Illinois State Penitentiary, during the two fiscal years ending November 30, 1874, and number on hand November 30, 1874.

OCCUPATION	Received in		On hand Nov. 30, 1874.
	1873.	1874.	
Makers	5	12	17
Bankers	1		1
Barbers	10	11	17
Bar keepers	4		4
Basket makers	4		1
Blacksmiths	11	13	23
Bolter cleaner	1		1
Beller musker	1	2	3
Boatman	6	3	14
Book agent	1		1
Book binder	1		1
Book keeper	6	7	10
Box maker	1		2
Brewers	1		2
Bricklayers	3	6	6
Brick maker	1		2
Broom maker	1		1
Butcher	1	11	20
Cabinet maker	4	3	4
Carpenter	15	26	37
Caulker	1		1
Cigar maker	4	12	19
Circus performer	1		1
Civil engineer	1		1
Clerks	11	21	30
Commission merchant	1		1
Confessioners	1		2
Contractors	1		3
Cooks	14	13	22
Coopers	3	12	16
Cutler	1		1
Deatid	2		4
Druggist	2		1
Electroplater	1		1
Engineer	6	8	17
Engraver	1		1
Fireman	85	111	220
Furrier	1		1
Gas fitter	4	1	3
Glass blower	1		2
Grocer	1		2
Gunsmith	1		1
Harness maker	5	8	14
Hatter	1		2
Horse jockey	1		1
Horse trainer	1		1
Hostler	3	5	10
Hotel keeper	1		1
Housekeeper	6		6
Huckster	1		1
Hunter and trapper	1		1
Jeweler	1		1
Journalist	1		1
Juggler	1		1
Labourer	138	203	300
Lawyer	1		1
Livery man	1		4
Machinist	11	14	28
Mason	3	6	1
Match maker	1		1
Miller	3		4
Milliner	1		4
Millwright	1		1
Miner	4		4
Moulder	3		5
No occupation	3	35	46
Painter	18	36	39
Paper hanger	1		1
Peddler	1		1
Photographer	1		1
Physician	3	2	4
Pie	1		1
Plasterer	3	4	5
Plumber	2	1	3
Porter	6	3	8
Printer	3	4	7
Real estate agent	1		1
Roofer	1		17
Sailor	5	1	1
Salesman	1		4
Saloon keeper	1		2
Sash maker	1		3
Sawyer	1		3
Seamstress	1		7
Servant	1		5
Sewing machine agent	1		1
Sheet iron worker	1		1
Shipcooker	1		40
Shoemaker	1		1
Shoeman	1		1
Silver plater	1		1
Sole leather cutter	1		1
Steward	1		1
Stone cutter	8	7	28
Stone polisher	1		1
Tailors	7	11	15
Teacher	2	7	10
Tannier	17	9	23
Telegrapher	1		3
Tinsmith	2	4	3
Tobacco makers	1		3
Tobacco strippers	2		2
Traveling agent	2		2
Veterinary surgeon	3	2	4
Wagon makers	7	19	25
Washer	3		1
Watch maker	1		2
Watchman	1		1
Weaver	1		1
Wire worker	2		2
Wood carter	1		1
Total	508	768	1353

Crimes: Students should look at the table of crimes and create a list of the five most common offenses. They should also define any crimes that seem unfamiliar as they examine the list. Also, they should list anything that was illegal in 1874, but is no longer punishable today.

53 [581]

"CN." STATISTICAL TABLE OF CRIMES committed by Convicts received at the Illinois State Penitentiary during the two fiscal years ending November 30, 1874, and Convicts on hand November 30, 1874.

CRIMES.	1873.		1874.		On Hand.	
	Against Person.	Against Property.	Against Person.	Against Property.	Against Person.	Against Property.
Arson	3		9		12	
attempt			2		3	
and larceny			1		1	
and assault to murder	19		14		36	
Assault to murder	9		9		2	
and burglary					21	
kill	1		1		2	
and murder	5		15		27	
rape					7	
rob			3		1	
with deadly weapon					2	
Attempt to steal			1			
from person					1	
commit larceny					1	
burglary	6		6		4	
Bigamy						173
Burglary	27		112		68	
and larceny	18		50		1	
vagrancy					1	
arson						1
assault to rob			2		2	
with intent to rape			1		1	
kill			1		1	
rape and murder					3	
attempt to steal			4		11	
confidence game	11		1		1	
embezzlement	1					
false pretences	1					
fornication	2		2			
forgery	21		25		38	
and confidence game	1				2	
larceny	1				2	
Grand larceny	29		31		56	
and horse stealing					2	
having in possession burglars tools			2		17	
horse stealing	4		5		6	
license	1		2		254	
Larceny	234		360		2	
and assault to murder					1	
having burglar tools	1				3	
receiving stolen property	1		1		1	
robbery			1		2	
by bailee	1		1		5	
from person	1		1		1	
and burglary					34	
manslaughter	10		10		1	
malicious mischief			1		1	
mayhem	2					
murder	27		29		145	
passing counterfeit money	4		2		5	
P.O. money order	1				1	
checks	1					
perjury	3		3		3	
persecuting another	9		1		1	
rape					10	
and larceny					3	
receiving stolen property	5		5		3	
robbery	19		28		60	
stamping and stealing tickets			1		1	
sodomy						
unlawfully opening letters	1		2		1	
vagrancy			2		2	
violation of postal laws						
Total	92	416	106	662	314	1,039

Essay #3

Using the list of former occupations and crimes committed by convicts, write a general summary of what kinds of people were committing what types of crimes. What conclusions can be drawn about who is in prison and what did they do to get them there? (A guided discussion may be useful in helping students discern a trend of unskilled workers committing crimes of theft of property).