

Civics

Chapter 13: Family

The Colonial Family

- Most colonial families lived on farms
- They also tended to be larger than most modern families because children were economic assets to the family
- They had little time for play or schooling and spent most time working on the farms
- They produced most of what they needed to survive

The Move to Cities

- At the beginning of the 1900's new inventions brought about factory work
- Many families move to cities to get jobs

Delayed marriage

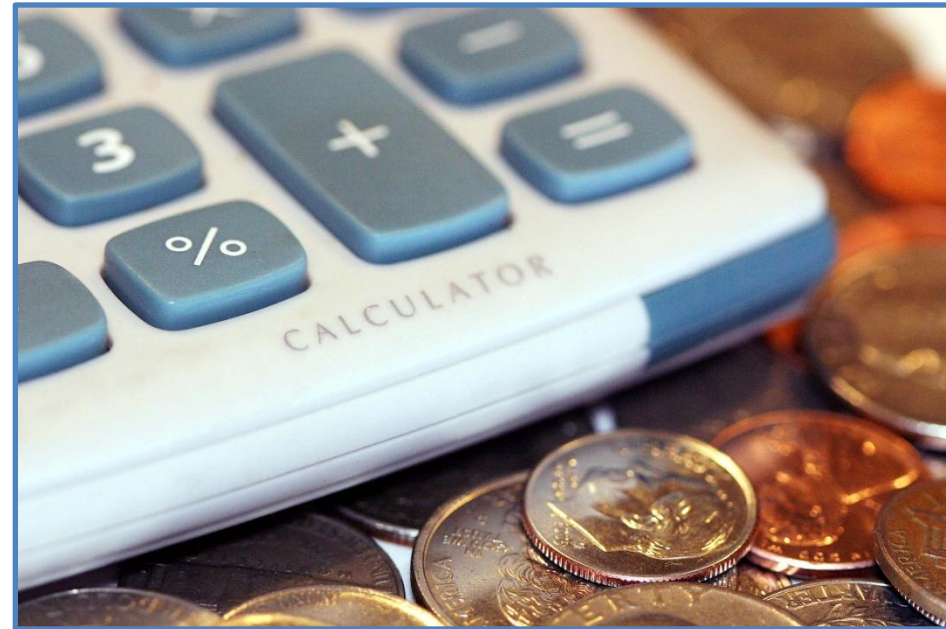
- Marring at an older age
- Reasons:
 - Remaining single has become more accepted
 - Finish educations/start careers
 - Co-Habitation
- Delayed marriage causes couples to have children at a later age

Remarriages

- One or both of the partners have been married before
- This can cause blended families- or stepfamilies
- For a blended family to get along well, each member must attempt to have patience, understanding, and willingness to cooperate

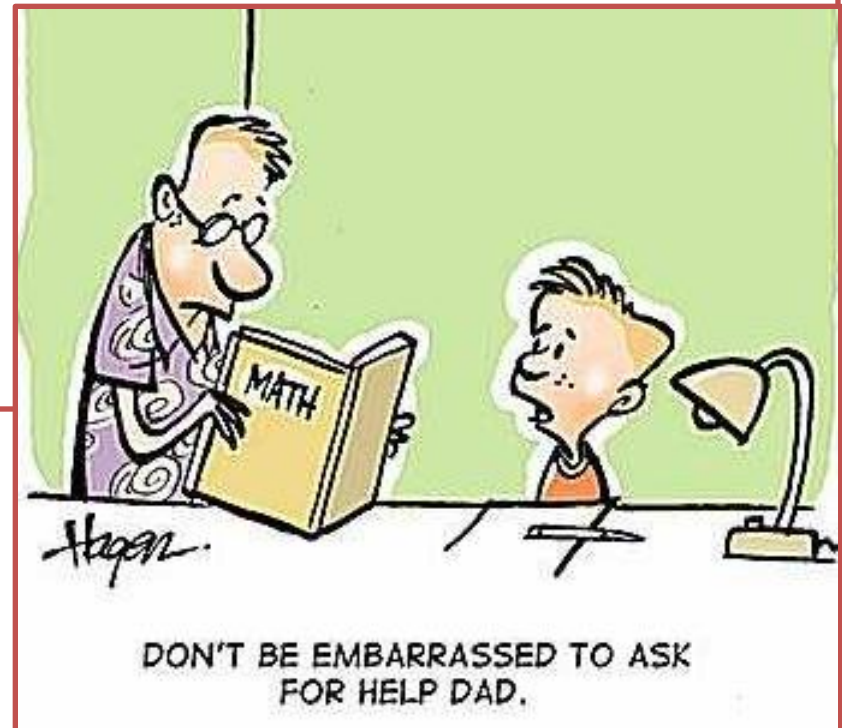
Two-income family

- Families in which both partners work
- Economic necessity has caused many women to go back into the workforce:
- Two income family's have increased because of:
 - Women finding success in their careers
 - Increase in the amount of time husbands spend at home

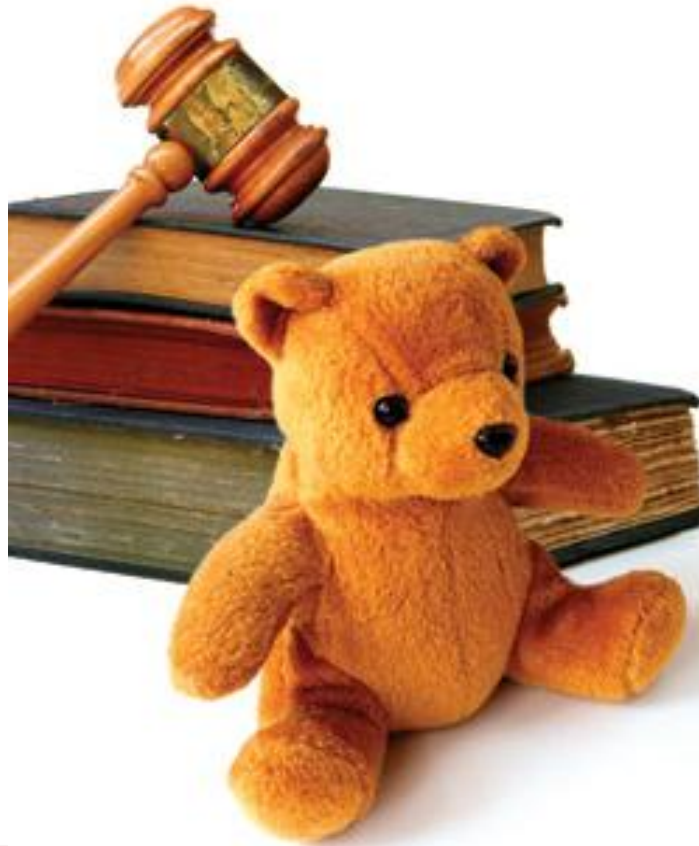


Single Parent Families:

- Families that have only one parent
- These are caused by a few things:
 - Adoption by single parent households
 - Divorce
 - Widowhood
 - Single parent births



Why are single parent households subject to increased stress?



Law and the Family

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Family law



- Regulates:
 - Marriage
 - Divorce
 - Responsibilities and rights of adults and children

Marriage laws:

- Most states require people to be at least 18 years old to marry with out parental consent and 16 with parental consent
- Half the sates require people to wait at least 5 days for their marriage certificate to help eliminate hasty marriages
- Most states require the ceremony to be performed by civil officials or religious officials



Protecting family members:

- **Child abuse-** emotional, physical, or sexual abuse inflicted on a child by another person
- **Foster homes-** homes of people who are unrelated to the child but agree to act as their care givers
- **Guardian-** a person appointed by the state court to care for an individual who can not care for themselves
- **Adopt-** when a person legally establishes the child as his or her own

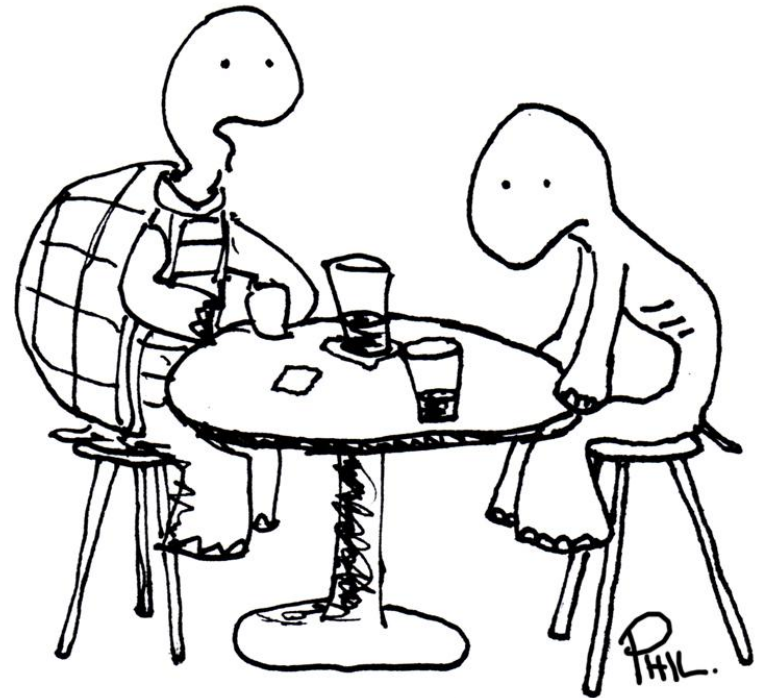
Divorce laws:

- **Divorce-** The final legal ending of a marriage
- Each state makes its own laws on divorce
- **No-fault divorce-** people seeking divorce do not have to charge their partner with grounds desertion or abuse



Problems with divorce:

- After a divorce many things need to be resolved:
 - Division of property
 - Custody of children
 - Visitation rights
 - Child support payments
- If a couple can not decide on these things a judge will decide for them



*‘Cheer up, buddy! She might have got the house...
but she can never take away your dignity!’*

Divorce in the U.S.



- The US has one of the highest divorce rates in the world
- There are a few reasons for this:
 - The divorce process has become less complicated
 - More women work outside the home
 - American society has become more tolerant of divorce

Reduce the divorce rate:

- Some Americans believe that there are several ways you can reduce the divorce rate in America:
 - Stricter marriage laws
 - More preparation for marriage life
 - Offer classes in high schools and colleges that deal with married life
 - Encourage family members to share and work together for the good of the family