Running the Numbers Answer Key

Figure 1:

1. What is being measured in this list? *The average strength of combat divisions on Western Front in 1918.*

2. What country averages the most troops on the Western Front during 1918? *United States.* Who averages the least? *French.*

3. How do you think America’s late entrance into World War I may have affected their numbers? *Fewer soldiers from the United States died than the other countries because they had been fighting for 4 years before the United States entered the war.*

4. How might this affect how other nations perceived American troops? *Relief: needed the help and morale boost; disdain: had not been fighting as long and lacked experience.*

5. How would this impact the role of Americans in the decision-making process during and after the war? *Americans felt they had “saved the day” and should have a large role, while the other nations were not comfortable with that and wanted to use their experiences as reasons to control the decisions that would be made.*

Figure 2:

1. Make a line graph to track the number of miles gained over time for each unit.
2. When do American forces gain the most ground? October 10, 1918. What general trend do you notice regarding American forces? Highest from August to October.

3. What general trend do you notice regarding miles gained by the British, French, and Belgian forces? The number of miles occupied declines over time.

4. Does the progress gained seem consistent or are there sharp gains and losses? Fairly consistent. Why do you think this is? Small areas of land take a long time to gain or lose.

5. What other variables could affect how many miles of Western front the Americans occupied? Number of forces arriving, strength of other Allied forces, strength of German forces.

Figure 3:

1. What statistic in this paragraph do you find most surprising? Why? Answers may vary, but the large amount of dollars spent should be a surprise.

2. What other information would be helpful in order to evaluate America’s financial sacrifices regarding the war? Knowing how much the average citizen paid for war bonds? Did the income of citizens on the home front change as a result of the war?

3. How do you think these expenditures affected life on the home front? People probably had to pay more in taxes and bought bonds to finance the war.

Figure 4:

1. Who received loans before the Armistice was signed but not after? Cuba and Russia. Why do you think this is? Russia dropped out of the war before the Armistice was signed.

2. Create a pie chart showing what percentage of America’s loans was made both before and after the Armistice.
3. Does anything surprise you about this chart? Answers may vary. May be surprised that so much money continued to be spent after the armistice. Why or why not?

4. What countries received the most from the United States? Great Britain, France, Italy. Why do you think this is? They bore the brunt of the fighting and were allies during the war.

5. Considering the information on this chart and the information on the cost of the war (Figure 3), how do you think many Americans felt about the war after it was over? That it was a huge expense for the country; they were glad it was over.