A Skyrocketing Prison Population
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First, share what you see in the graph. Then, identify specific things that you notice and/or questions you have. Finally, use the graph to answer the following questions.

1. From 1925-72, the number of incarcerated citizens was more or less at or below what number?
2. For about how many years did the incarceration rate in the U.S. remain relatively consistent?
3. From 1972-1988, the number of incarcerated people increased by approximately
   A. 2 times    B. 3 times    C. 4 times
5. In one sentence, summarize the data you see in this chart.
6. What might explain the dramatic shift in the number of people incarcerated? To help answer this question, read articles on pp. 8, 14, 16, 18, 20, 24, and 29.

NOTE: answer sheet, more graphs, and math problems available at <changeagent.nelrc.org/issues>.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics Prisoners Series. See <www.sentencingproject.org> for more statistics, information, and news.