



Smart Economics Curriculum Guide

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Smart Economics is a digital course that empowers middle school students to analyze the economy and identify factors that impact the price of consumer goods. Through a story-based narrative and interactive exercises, students learn to make real-life decisions that require an understanding of key economic concepts.

COURSE OVERVIEW

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
Your Role in the Economy	Students learn about their role as a consumer in the economy.
Government and the Economy	Students gain an understanding of the role of government in the economy.
Buying and Selling	Students explore the role of trade in the economy.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Pre-survey	Module 1: Your Role in the Economy	Module 2: Government and the Economy	Module 3: Buying and Selling	Post-survey
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DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE

Module 1: Your Role in the Economy

This module introduces the cast of characters, explains how consumers affect the economy, defines goods and services and the relationship between the economy and the job market. It also describes what it means to be a market economy and explains supply and demand.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to...

- Explore the role of consumers in the economy
- Name factors that lead to a good job market
- Discover how a market economy works

ACTIVITY TOPIC	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION
Introduction	Meet Tia and her mom and learn that they are in the process of opening a new cupcake shop.
What You Know	Learners take a pre-assessment to see what they already know.
Analyze The Economy	Tia and her mom analyze the economy to determine if they can open their cupcake shop.
The Importance of Location	Learners help select the best place to locate the cupcake shop.
What to Offer	Analyze customer habits to help plan what cupcakes to sell.
Calculating Expenses	Learn about the law of supply and demand to set prices and calculate the cost of making cupcakes.
Key Learnings & Quiz	Learners review what was discovered in this module and take a post-assessment.

Module 2: Government and the Economy

In this module, learners will acquire basic knowledge about trade, GDP, and the role of governments in the economy. It also discusses the impact of taxes.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to...

- Explore the role of GDP and inflation in the economy
- Identify the role of governments in the economy
- Discover the impact of taxes

ACTIVITY TOPIC	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION
Introduction	Meet Camila and her brother Mateo as they discuss the impact of taxes on a shopping experience.
What You Know	Learners take a pre-assessment to see what they already know.
Taxes are Everywhere	Camila and Mateo review a recent purchase to discover how taxes impact the total.
Purpose of Taxes	Learners explore different types of taxes and what they fund.
Government and the Economy	Analyze economic factors to measure the economy's strength.
The Central Bank and its Effects on the Economy	Learners discover the role of the Federal Reserve to change interest rates to strengthen the economy.
Key Learnings & Quiz	Learners review what was discovered in this module and take a post-assessment.

Module 3: Buying and Selling

In this module, learners explore how trade works domestically and internationally. They also discover the economic benefits of trade, barriers to trade that can exist, and how prices are set.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to...

- Discover how trade works
- Explore both domestic and international trade and how it affects the larger economy
- Identify economic benefits of trade

ACTIVITY TOPIC	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION
Introduction	Meet AJ and Sal as they think about Sal's pizza restaurant and why they can't get AJ's favorite toppings.
What You Know	Learners take a pre-assessment to see what they already know.
Supply Chain	AJ learns what a supply chain is, and how disruptions in it can make goods unavailable.
Imported vs Domestic Goods	Learn about how travel costs, tariffs, and quotas can raise the price of imported goods, and why it can help local producers.
What Affects the Cost of Goods?	Learners explore factors that influence the cost of a smartwatch.
Key Learnings & Quiz	Learners review what was discovered in this module and take a post-assessment.