

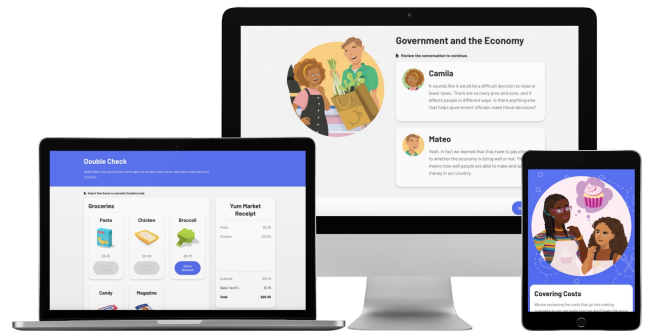
FREE DIGITAL LESSONS

# SmartEconomics: Economic Concepts

Economics is a critical component of a well-rounded education. With a strong foundation in economics, students not only gain strong analytical and problem-solving skills, but a deeper understanding of the world around them.<sup>1</sup> This awareness is instrumental in students' growth as informed citizens ready to participate in the global economy.

*SmartEconomics*, a MassMutual Foundation program, is a free 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 the understanding of key economic concepts.

1. Counsel for Economic Education, 2022 (Source)



SmartEconomics: Economics for Middle School

**GRADE LEVEL:**  
6-8

**LENGTH:**  
3 digital lessons,  
15 mins each

**CURRICULUM FIT:**  
Economics, Business,  
Social Studies, Career  
Readiness

**STANDARDS ALIGNMENT:**  
Jump\$tart National Standards  
in K-12 Personal Finance  
Education, National Standards  
for Social Studies, State  
Academic Standards

**EFFICACY:**  
All EVERFI K-12 courses  
are research-based

Learn more at  
[EVERFI.com/Research](https://EVERFI.com/Research)



## Free Digital Platform & Support



Self-guided, interactive digital lessons with real-world scenarios



Extension activities & resources to bring the digital lessons to life



Built-in student assessments with automatic grading



Single sign-on (SSO) available to streamline student registration

Clever -and- ClassLink



PRE-SURVEY

**LESSON 1**  
Your Role in the Economy

**LESSON 2**  
Government and the Economy

**LESSON 3**  
Buying and Selling

POST-SURVEY



**MEASURABLE  
IMPACT**

Evaluate learning gains with pre- and post-lesson assessment questions and real-time score reporting



# Teach Students About Their Role Within the Economy

We include this curriculum in our economics course because of its relevant and authentic application to students' lives. Students grow as a result of this program in extremely positive ways – both in their understandings of financial literacy and their interest in the subject matter.

– Social Studies Curriculum Director & Advance Placement Coordinator, Iowa


**Calculating Expenses**

Adjusting prices is a great way to react to customer demand, but we need to make sure we will still make money. We could lose money if we sell a cupcake for less money than it cost us to make it.

Review what Tina's Mom says to continue.

**Materials**

We use materials such as flour, sugar, butter, eggs and flavorings to make our cupcakes. These are material costs which are usually 25 cents for each cupcake.



Next Slide →

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## Your Role in the Economy

Students explore the role of consumers in the economy, name factors that lead to a good job market, and discover how a market economy works.

**Types of Taxes**

The tax you just paid for your items is an example of **sales tax**, but there are other types of taxes.



Select the four cards to continue.

**Income Tax** Fig 27

**Property Tax** Fig 27



## Taxes

Students explore different types of taxes, their purpose, and what they fund. They also discover how taxes impact the larger economy.

**The Central Bank**

All governments have a central bank that makes rules and decisions to protect the economy.

Select the two tabs to continue.

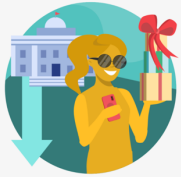
**Raise Interest Rates**

**Lower Interest Rates**

Central banks lower interest rates to encourage spending. If the economy is weak, lower interest rates means that it's cheaper to use and easier to get credit cards and loans. This allows people to buy things easily.

**Federal Reserve**

The central bank in the United States is called the Federal Reserve. Congress created it so that it would be independent of politics. This way, the Federal Reserve can focus directly on the economy.



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## Government and the Economy

Students analyze factors to measure the economy's strength and discover the role of the Federal Reserve to change interest rates to strengthen the economy.

**Trading in a Free Market**


Read the conversation. Select a response to continue.

Start Conversation

want it, you'll have to pay the price he charges.

Now imagine if a cheesemaker near you figured out how to make the same cheese. They might charge less for your favorite cheese to compete with Francis's cheese. In a **free market**, anyone with the skills can sell their products openly and charge what people will pay.

Continue



## Buying and Selling

Students discover how trade works, explore domestic and international trade and how it affects the larger economy, and identify economic benefits of trade.

This course is a part of EVERFI's Financial Education Suite



Collection of complementary courses covering topics like the economy, banking, saving, investing, entrepreneurship, income, and setting financial goals

EVERFI<sup>®</sup>  
from Blackbaud

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EVERFI from Blackbaud empowers educators to bring real-world learning into the classroom and equip students with the skills they need for success – now and in the future.

EVERFI.com/K-12