

Earn Your Future

Grades K-2



* Indicates the module is also available for download in Spanish, Portuguese, and French at the bottom of the curricula webpage.

SUSTAINABILITY

Conservation: Water*

Students will learn about fresh water: where it comes from and how we use (and waste) it in everyday activities. Students will learn that there are two parts to water conservation: quality and quantity. For quantity it is about using less, and quality is about limiting what we throw down the drain. Students will learn about filtering by testing water filters and develop strategies to use less, and save more, water.

Earn Your Future

Grades 3-5



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FINANCIAL LITERACY: FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND DECISION MAKING

Personal information and identity theft*

Students learn about identity theft and various methods used to steal identities. Students develop an identity theft prevention tip sheet and propose ways to share their tips with their families and friends.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: CREDIT & DEBT

Creditworthiness*

Students will learn the difference between buying with cash and buying with credit. Students will describe the qualities that would be desirable in a person who borrows a favorite personal possession. Given a scenario, students will describe steps that a person could take to begin to regain a lender's trust after losing or damaging borrowed personal property.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: RISK MANAGEMENT & INSURANCE

Risk management*

Students will identify examples of risks that individuals and households face (such as illness and/or theft). Students will describe how valuable items might be damaged or lost and ways to protect them. Given a scenario or activity, students will analyze how to reduce and avoid different kinds of risk.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: SAVING & INVESTMENT

Saving matters*

Students will describe the advantages and disadvantages of saving for a short-term goal. Students will identify a short-term financial goal (i.e., purchase a new bike, attend summer camp, purchase an amusement park ticket) and develop a plan and timetable for achieving it, including ways to earn money and ways to reduce expenses.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: INCOME & CAREERS

Career exploration*

Students will participate in a virtual career day. Students will examine various career opportunities in priority industries (STEM, finance, "Green", medical field). Students will virtually shadow a professional to understand better the typical day-to-day tasks for the position. Students will interview their parents to learn more about what their parents' careers. Students will discuss the possibility of hosting a career fair in their school.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: PLANNING & MONEY MANAGEMENT

Charitable giving*

Students will learn about charitable organizations and how monetary donations from individuals benefit both the charitable organization and the people it serves. Students will identify a charitable organization to support and discuss the implications of their donation.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: HOME BUYING

Income vs. monthly payments*

Students will learn about factors people usually consider when choosing a place to live, as well as the characteristics of the homes that need to be studied. Students will learn how a house's characteristics and amenities affect the cost of the home. Students will explore what might be an affordable monthly payment based on income and other expenses. Lastly, students will calculate a very basic total cost of a mortgage in order to understand the cost of interest.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: TAXES

Sources and uses

Students will explore the different types of taxes charged by cities, states, and the federal government. Additionally, they will identify what tax revenue is used to pay for within their communities and nationally.

SUSTAINABILITY

Waste & recycling: Recycling paper*

Students will learn about paper: where it comes from and how we use (and waste) it in everyday activities. Students will learn that paper is usually made of natural fibers that come from trees and plants; that almost half of the trees harvested each year for industrial use go into making paper; that most paper can be recycled, and we can develop strategies to recycle paper, use less new paper, and preserve more trees and forests.

SUSTAINABILITY

Value of Recycling

Students will learn about the journey from creation to disposal of aluminum cans. This activity will help students understand how a familiar item like a soda can is made and transported, and what happens to that can after we have finished with it. Students will learn about the financial value of recycling by performing calculations of how much individuals or groups can earn from participating in the deposit recycling program.

Earn Your Future

Grades 6-8



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FINANCIAL LITERACY: FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND DECISION MAKING

Evaluating financial information*

Students will analyze and evaluate advertising claims. Students will review online and printed sources of product information and list the strengths and weaknesses of each. Students will develop an advertisement pitch and their peers will evaluate the financial claims and determine the validity of the claims.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: CREDIT & DEBT

Credit reports*

Students will explain why it is important to establish a positive credit history and explain the value of credit reports to borrowers and to lenders. Students will apply legal guidelines to determine permissible uses of a credit report other than granting credit. Students will discuss ways that a negative credit report can affect a consumer's financial future.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: RISK MANAGEMENT & INSURANCE

Insurance why's and how's*

Students will explain the primary purpose of various insurance types and the individuals that may benefit the most from the insurance coverage. Students will examine the factors that may increase or reduce insurance premiums.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: SAVING & INVESTMENT

Investing for the future*

Students will learn about the time value of money and explain how small amounts of money invested regularly over time grow exponentially. Students will devise a periodic investment plan for accumulating the tuition required to attend a four-year college.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: INCOME & CAREERS

Career exploration*

Students will compare personal skills and interests to various career options. Students will identify a career goal and develop a plan and timetable for achieving it, including educational/training requirements, costs, and possible debt. Students will analyze how economic, social, cultural, and political conditions can affect income and career potential.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: PLANNING & MONEY MANAGEMENT

Spending and saving*

Students will learn about the components of a personal budget, including income, planned saving, taxes, and fixed and variable expenses. Students will identify a financial goal and develop a budget to manage spending to achieve financial goals.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: HOME BUYING

Terms of a mortgage*

Students will learn about some of the variables of a mortgage including amount of principal, length of mortgage, and interest rate. Students will calculate various scenarios to determine which of these three variables has the greatest impact. Students will also discuss interest rates to gain a better understanding of how compounding interest increases the interest paid on a mortgage.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Understanding financial aid options*

Students will gain tools necessary to begin saving for a college or university that will best meet his or her needs and abilities—academically, socially, philosophically, and financially. Students will learn about the selectivity of various academic institutions, and get an understanding of financial aid options that are available during the admissions process.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: TAXES

Paying taxes

Students will explain the different types of taxes charged by cities, states, and the federal government and describe what types of expenses and services tax revenue is used to pay for. Students will define the role of the Internal Revenue Service and explore who has to file a tax return by being able to identify tax-free earnings limits. The lesson concludes with an activity in which students explain items commonly found on paychecks including payroll taxes and other deductions withheld from wages.

SUSTAINABILITY

Waste & recycling: Recycling and energy recovery*

Students will learn about what happens to garbage after it leaves our homes, how much garbage we produce per person and together in the U.S. each year, and discuss the harmful environmental repercussions of so much waste. Students will visualize the percentages of material components of garbage and experiment with a waste-to-energy method. Students will strategize about how to reduce the amount of garbage and how to put garbage to productive use for society.

SUSTAINABILITY

Balancing the bottom line

Students will learn to identify and account for potential environmental costs associated with products that may not be fully represented in the prices we pay as consumers. Students will learn about the connection between financial decisions, and natural resources, and the triple bottom line.

Earn Your Future

Grades 9-12



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FINANCIAL LITERACY: FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND DECISION MAKING

Consumer fraud*

Students will investigate current types of consumer fraud, including online scams. Students will recommend actions a victim of fraud or identity theft should take to restore personal assets and security.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: CREDIT & DEBT

Credit record and debt prevention*

Students will analyze the information contained in a credit report, indicate the time that certain negative data can be retained, and describe how to dispute inaccurate entries. Students will examine possible consequences of excessive debt and list actions that a consumer could take to reduce or better manage excessive debt.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: RISK MANAGEMENT & INSURANCE

Insurance costs and considerations*

Students will analyze factors that may increase or reduce insurance premiums. Students will develop a personal insurance protection plan for their home, health and automobile(s) by comparing benefits and premiums for each insurance type.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: SAVING & INVESTMENT

Building wealth*

Students will identify and compare strategies for investing. Students will explain the relative importance of the following sources of income in retirement: Social Security, employer retirement plans, and personal investments. Students will identify an investment plan based on a scenario and present to the class reasons for selecting this strategy.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: INCOME & CAREERS

Career survey*

Students will complete a career survey to assist them in better understanding college majors and the academic requirements for each college major. Students will identify a college major and develop a plan and timetable for achieving it, including general college entrance requirements, tuition costs, and possible college financing options. Students will analyze how various decision points (public/private institution; 2-year versus 4-year degree, etc.) can impact career opportunity and post-secondary expenses.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: PLANNING & MONEY MANAGEMENT

Financial plan*

Students will learn about the components of a personal budget, including income, planned saving, and fixed and variable expenses. Utilizing a case study, students will develop, monitor, and modify a financial plan for a family. Lastly, students will learn about disaster preparedness as relates to financial information and records protection.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: HOME BUYING

Mortgage decisions*

Students will learn about some of the variables of a mortgage, including amount of principal, length of mortgage, and interest rate. Students will calculate various scenarios to determine which of these three variables has the greatest impact. Interest rate will be discussed so students understand how compounding interest increases the interest paid on a mortgage.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: STOCK MARKET

Stock market*

Students will learn how the stock market works and investigate how different companies' stocks have performed. Then, students will calculate gains and losses of specific stocks when bought and sold. Finally, a stock market game will simulate buyers in the stock market with a goal of making the most money.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Selecting a school*

Students will gain tools necessary to choose a college or university that will best meet his or her needs and abilities—academically, socially, philosophically, and financially. Students will learn about the selectivity of various academic institutions, and get an understanding of financial aid options that are available during the admissions process.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: TAXES

Rates and Withholdings

Students will explain items commonly found on paychecks including payroll taxes and other deductions withheld from wages. Students will complete IRS Form W-4 (Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate) to understand the effect on take-home pay of changing the allowances claimed on the form. Students will define the role of the Internal Revenue Service and explore who has to file a tax return by being able to identify tax-free earnings limits. Lastly, students will explore what it means to have a progressive tax system, and calculate an earner's effective tax rate using the IRS tax tables.

Filing a Return

This lesson builds on concepts learned in Taxes: Rates and Withholdings. Students will complete IRS Form 1040EZ (U.S. Income Tax Return for Single and Joint Filers With No Dependents) to understand the various items that affect taxes owed to the government each year. They will utilize various forms such as Form W-2 and Form 1099-INT in order to complete the 2012 return for a given scenario.

SUSTAINABILITY

Evaluating green advertising claims

Students will learn six of the common strategies identified by the Federal Trade Commission that advertisers use to inflate the environmental credentials of a product. Students will then apply what they have learned by evaluating mock advertisements.

SUSTAINABILITY

Illuminating light bulbs

Students will learn about life cycle costs of light bulbs, electrical efficiency, and the conversion of energy into different forms. Students will then use a spreadsheet that has been pre-loaded with equations to facilitate a side-by-side comparison of how incandescent and LED bulbs would affect them financially. Students will also learn how their choices affect the environment.