

Prerequisites:

- None

Lesson Goal

For students to experience and understand the monthly budgeting of a household and making financial decisions with a set income and responsibilities.

What should students learn from the lesson?

Students will learn about the day to day decisions of running a family budget. They will come to understand the difference between a want and a need. They will understand how much things cost, how a monthly income can be quickly consumed by monthly bills, and how education/training, marriage, and kids all impact household finances.

What is the in-class activity?

Life Store is an interactive budgeting activity that simulates life decisions including housing, transportation, child care, and more based upon an assigned family status and career. Students will have a budget worksheet and they will work through monthly financial decisions for their sample family status and must end the month with a positive balance in their checking account.

After each student or group of students have completed their budget, a class discussion will be held about how they feel about the activity, about the decisions they made and about what they learned about budgeting and finances. Timeframe is adaptable but needs minimum of 45 minutes.

- Introduction and setup (5 minutes)
- Budget Activity (45-60 minutes)
- Summary Discussion (10-15 minutes)

What is the takeaway for students?

1. To understand the importance of budgeting
2. To understand monthly responsibilities
3. To understand the importance of planning
4. To understand how money is intertwined into every aspect of life, and that planning from an early age provides the most opportunity for success

Materials Needed:

- LifeStore Budget Worksheets
- LifeStore Kit (if not using pre-filled worksheets)
- Pencils
- Calculator