

Economics offers a tightly focused and scaffolded curriculum that provides an introduction to key economic principles. The course covers fundamental properties of economics, including an examination of markets from both historical and current perspectives; the basics of supply and demand; the theories of early economic philosophers such as Adam Smith and David Ricardo; theories of value; the concept of money and how it evolved; the role of banks, investment houses, and the Federal Reserve; Keynesian economics; the productivity, wages, investment, and growth involved in capitalism; unemployment, inflations, and the national debt; and a survey of markets in areas such as China, Europe, and the Middle East.

Economics is designed to fall in the fourth year of social studies instruction. Students perfect their analytic writing through a scaffolded series of analytic assignments and written lesson tests. They also apply basic mathematics to economic concepts. Students read selections from annotated primary documents and apply those readings to the course content.

This course is built to state standards and further informed by standards from the National Council for History Education, the National Center for History in the Schools, and the National Council for Social Studies.

Length: One semester

UNIT 1: THE GAME OF ECONOMICS

- Lesson 1: What Is Economics Anyway?
- Lesson 2: Different Ways to Play
- Lesson 3: Dollars and Sense
- Lesson 4: Technology and Economics
- Lesson 5: The Game of Economics Wrap-Up

UNIT 2: THE PLAYERS

- Lesson 1: Consumers and Producers
- Lesson 2: Consumer Choice
- Lesson 3: The Business of Business
- Lesson 4: Business Models and Model Businesses
- Lesson 5: The Players Wrap-Up

UNIT 3: THE PRICE IS RIGHT

- Lesson 1: Supply and Demand: It's the Law
- Lesson 2: Get a Job
- Lesson 3: Find a Place to Live
- Lesson 4: The Ups and Downs of the Economy
- Lesson 5: The Price Is Right Wrap-Up

UNIT 4: MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

- Lesson 1: Money in the Bank
- Lesson 2: The Stock Market
- Lesson 3: More Markets
- Lesson 4: Financing a Business
- Lesson 5: Money, Money, Money

UNIT 5: THE GOVERNMENT GETS INVOLVED

- Lesson 1: Taxes and Tariffs
- Lesson 2: The Government Is a Consumer
- Lesson 3: The Government Is a Referee

- Lesson 4: The Government Is a Police Officer
- Lesson 5: The Government Gets Involved Wrap-Up

UNIT 6: THE GLOBAL GAME BOARD

- Lesson 1: It's a Small World
- Lesson 2: International Organizations
- Lesson 3: The Challenges of Globalization
- Lesson 4: The Global Game Board Wrap-Up

UNIT 7: PLAYING THE GAME YOURSELF: PERSONAL FINANCE

- Lesson 1: Making Choices
- Lesson 2: Planning Ahead
- Lesson 3: Give Me Some Credit
- Lesson 4: The Responsible Consumer
- Lesson 5: Playing the Game Yourself: Personal Finance Wrap-Up

UNIT 8: SEMESTER REVIEW AND EXAM

- Lesson 1: Semester Review and Exam