### Unit 1: Elements of the Economy

#### Theme 1 Scarcity and Opportunity Cost

Students ponder the question “if goods and services have improved most people's lives over time, why doesn't everyone have everything they need and want?” Students will learn that goods and services are limited, as are all resources. At the same time, people's wants are virtually unlimited.

**Students explore the following topics:**
- Economics and choices
- People's needs and wants
- Consumers and self-interest
- Production of goods and services

**Key Learning Objectives:**

- Define economics
- Explain why scarcity forces decisions
- Identify opportunity costs
- Evaluate the economic soundness of a decision
- Distinguish between needs and wants
- Evaluate how needs and wants affect the choices that people make.
- Describe the benefits of voluntary exchange and specialization.
- Distinguish between self-interest and selfishness.
- Identify how self-interest helps you and others.
- Separate income into two categories: consumption and savings.
- Explain how a business acting in its self-interest benefits others.
- Identify the four key resources available to produce goods and services.
- Explain how businesses contribute to the flow of the economy.
- List the six core principles of economics.
- Differentiate between incentives and disincentives.
- Apply each of the six core principles of economics to a life choice.
- Evaluate the benefits and costs of decisions by using economic reasoning.
- Analyze the trade-offs in a typical day and identify ways to lower the opportunity costs.
- Categorize items as needs or wants.
- Analyze the resources needed to provide a specific product.
- Evaluate the impact that the product has on people around the world.
- Determine what part of the circular flow model an action represents.
- Determine what economic principle an action represents.
- Define key terms related to scarcity and opportunity cost.
- Categorize items as needs or wants.

**Illinois Economics Standards**

SS.EC.1.9-12: Analyze how scarcity and incentives influence choices to consume or produce for different individuals and groups.

**Consumer Education:**

- Understand the interacting roles of the consumer in society as consumer, worker and citizen.
- Recognize the uniqueness of each consumer.
- Understand that consumer resources are largely dependent upon one's choices of occupations and careers.
- Understand the factors which influence decision making.
- Understand the role of the consumer in the economy interacting with agriculture, business, government, labor and trade unions.
- Understand the effect of consumer spending in the marketplace.
- Recognize the interdependence of the consumer as a worker, consumer, citizen.
- Understand economic principles that effect the consumer in the marketplace.
- Identify and set priorities for personal and family needs, wants, and goals.
- Understand the function, effects, and benefits of saving on the overall economy.
- Understand that economic freedom in our society is judged largely by the extent to which individual citizens are free to use the money they earn in the manner in which they choose and that this freedom is curtailed by the payment of taxes because the individual has no control over the expenditure of these funds.
- Understand and use food packaging, processing, grading, and labels as buying guides.
- Evaluate the opportunity costs of using one's non-working time.
- Evaluate the opportunity costs of one’s recreational plan in relation to one's entire financial plan.
- Analyze the major economic issues affecting the availability and distribution of private and public recreational facilities.
## Topic Descriptions

### Unit 1: Elements of the Economy

**Theme 2 Allocation and Decision Making: Is There a Best Choice?**

Students discover that sound decision making is based on weighing the marginal costs and marginal benefits. To get the most value out of the resources available, choose only those actions that promise marginal benefits that are equal to or greater than marginal costs. Individuals, businesses, and countries will be more prosperous when their choices reflect the implications of thinking on the margin and using comparative advantage to specialize. Students explore the following topics:

- Tools for allocating resources
- Consumers and marginal thinking
- Comparative advantage and specialization for individuals
- Economic systems: How nations allocate resources

### Reading Objectives:

- List the steps in the PACED model for decision making
- Identify decisions that the PACED model can be used for
- Explain how a budget can help with decision making
- Explain the differences across free market, command, traditional, and mixed economies
- Analyze how economic systems impact the economic choices of its consumers and businesses
- Apply marginal thinking to a daily choice
- Identify diminishing marginal utility to a choice
- Identify the best use of time, talent, or treasure using comparative advantage
- Analyze the comparative advantage and show that specializing can lead to more trade
- Apply the PACED model to decide on an optimal career path after high school.
- Create an annual budget for a household to achieve short-, medium-, and long-term goals.
- Evaluate trade-offs at the margin when deciding how to grow a business.
- Design an advertisement that will lure customers to buy a product based on marginal thinking.
- Analyze how to allocate time and talent (i.e., labor) based on comparative advantage.
- Define key terms related to allocation and decision making.
- As consumers, evaluate marginal costs and marginal benefits of economic decisions.
- As workers, evaluate how opportunity cost is affected by allocation of talent and time based on trade and comparative advantage.

### Illinois Economics Standards

- **SS.EC.2.9-12**: Use marginal benefits and marginal costs to propose a solution to an economic issue for an individual or community.

### Consumer Education:

- Understand the interacting roles of the consumer.
- Recognize the uniqueness of each consumer.
- Understand the factors which influence decision making.
- Recognize the need for practical experience in the marketplace.
- Understand the role of the consumer in the economy interacting with agriculture, business, government, labor and trade unions.
- Understand the effect of consumer spending in the marketplace.
- Recognize the interdependence of the consumer as worker, consumer, and citizen.
- Understand economic principles that effect the consumer in the marketplace.
- Understand that a budget is a plan for spending income.
- Identify and set priorities for personal and family needs, wants, and goals.
- Use the principles of money management in financial planning.
- Become familiar with the function and uses of a budget.
- Recognize that income must be allocated.
- Understand the value of using resources effectively.
- Understand the function, effects, and benefits of saving on the overall economy.
- Develop a plan for saving and investing, based on personal and family values and goals, and on future financial needs.
- Understand and use food packaging labels as buying guides.
- Identify sources of consumer information and protection.
- Utilize available resources and management skills in spending the food dollar.
- Develop an awareness of the values and benefits in preplanning, purchasing, and preparing food toward balanced, nutritious meals.
- Become familiar with consumer information sources in order to keep informed and develop better purchasing practices.
- Recognize the role advertising plays in the health field.
- Evaluate the opportunity costs of using one's non-working time.
- Understand the importance of budgeting costs and planning for payments.
- Become aware of the ways that shopping skills can help consumers obtain the most satisfaction for their money.
# Unit 1: Elements of the Economy

## Theme 3 Business Decisions

Students discover that a business's success stems from continually satisfying their own consumers. Businesses are rewarded for doing so through a steady stream of profits. These profits allow them to produce more or invest their profits. Economic reasoning and marginal analysis help business owners make sound production and investment choices.

Students explore the following topics:
- Why be in business?
- Business behavior
- What to sell?
- Economic goals in the market economy.

### Reading Objectives:
- Use the profit equation to calculate profits.
- Identify factors that affect revenue and cost and explain how businesses respond to changes.
- List strategies for increasing profit.
- Explain how producers use marginal analysis to make sound choices.
- Interpret price signals from the perspectives of the producer and the consumer.
- Associate different price signals with different market conditions.
- Use economic profit to determine best production alternatives.
- Calculate profit margin and explain its importance.
- Explain how businesses benefit from specialization and trade.
- Analyze opportunity costs to determine comparative advantage.
- List ways that trade benefits the consumer.
- List seven goals of the market economy.
- Explain how the goals in a market economy relate to consumers, businesses, and government.

### Hands-On Objectives:
- Examine how changes in revenue and costs affect profits and analyze how a business can respond to increased competition.
- Create a pitch to lenders...
- Analyze price signals reflecting changes in consumer demand...
- Analyze the impact of laws, regulations, and subsidies on business decisions and consumer demand.
- Make connections among different economic goals in a market economy...
- Define key terms related to businesses and free enterprise.
- Analyze how businesses respond to incentives.
- Explain how producers use marginal analysis.
- Explain how businesses use price signals and profit margins to make decisions.
- Explain how businesses stay competitive.
- Explain why businesses specialize and how they benefit from specialization and trade.

### Illinois Economics Standards

SS.EC.3.9-12: Evaluate how much competition exists within and among sellers and buyers in specific markets

### Consumer Education:
- Understand the interacting roles of the consumer in society as consumer, worker and citizen.
- Recognize the uniqueness of each consumer.
- Understand the role of the consumer in the economy interacting with agriculture, business, government, labor and trade unions.
- Understand the effect of consumer spending in the marketplace.
- Recognize the interdependence of the consumer as a worker, consumer, citizen.
- Understand the function, effects, and benefits of saving on the overall economy.
- Understand and use food packaging, processing, grading, and labels as buying guides.
- Comprehend that many suppliers are bidding and competing for one's recreational dollar.
- Analyze the major economic issues affecting the availability and distribution of private and public recreational facilities.
### Unit 1: Elements of the Economy
#### Theme 4 Entrepreneurship and Business

Students discover that the entrepreneurial path requires continual decision making around how to make effective use of scarce resources. Discovering the right price is one of many decisions an entrepreneur is going to have to make to begin and grow a startup. Entrepreneurs must make continuous decisions about whether to stay on the current path and persevere or pivot and turn in another direction where the opportunity cost is lower.

Students explore the following topics:
- Recipe for a successful business startup
- Information-based decisions
- Single business life cycle
- Business ownership

### Key Learning Objectives

**Reading Objectives:**
- Recognize the basis of entrepreneurship is adding value, filling a need, or solving a problem.
- Identify the key characteristics of entrepreneurs.
- Recognize the three factors that influence entrepreneurial success.
- Recognize the types of information-based decisions entrepreneurs make to launch and improve a business.
- Explain why a new, innovative product or service generates a higher price and profit.
- Describe the effect of competition on price as new sellers enter the market.
- Identify the stages of a single business life cycle.
- Explain the effect innovation has as a disruptor in a business’s life cycle.
- Identify the short-term negative effects of innovation.
- Recognize the importance of small businesses in the U.S. economy.
- Identify the three major types of business organization.
- Compare advantages and disadvantages of types of business organization.
- Define a stockholder and bondholder.
- Identify the ways in which stockholders can realize capital gains, dividends, and capital losses.

**Hands-On Objectives:**
- Identify the ways in which bondholders are repaid, how they earn interest income, and the risks they face.
- Analyze how changes in the production of goods and services affects the markets for labor and goods and services as well as the household consumer.
- Evaluate how innovations in automated processes can lead to creative destruction and then examine how the labor market might adjust to such innovations.
- Determine the best business structure for a company and explain the risks and rewards of that choice.
- Participate in a competitive simulation where groups invest in stocks and bonds to see who invests most wisely.
- Define key terms related to businesses and free enterprise.

### Illinois Economics Standards

- SS.EC.FL.1.9-12: Analyze the costs and benefits of various strategies to increase income.
- SS.EC.3.9-12: Evaluate how much competition exists within and among sellers and buyers in specific markets

**Consumer Education:**
- Comprehend that many suppliers are bidding and competing for one's recreational dollar.
- Analyze the major economic issues affecting the availability and distribution of private and public recreational facilities.

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<td>Read and discuss how entrepreneurship is at the heart of capitalism and the basis of the American economy.</td>
<td>Reading Objectives:</td>
<td>SS.EC.FL.1.9-12: Analyze the costs and benefits of various strategies to increase income.</td>
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<td>Entrepreneurs must make continuous decisions about whether to stay on the current path and persevere or pivot and turn in another direction where the opportunity cost is lower. Students explore the following topics:</td>
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<td><strong>Hands-On Objectives:</strong></td>
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| **Unit 1 Project: Budget Economics**  
Students conduct research about possible future income and expenses to create a working budget and then analyze the economics of the budget. Students will identify the impact of scarcity on personal finances and reflect on the opportunity costs of their choices. | **Objectives:**  
- Use a budgeting process to create a future budget  
- Analyze the economics of a personal budget | SS.EC.FL.1.9-12: Analyze the costs and benefits of various strategies to increase income.  
SS.EC.FL.2.9-12: Explain how to make informed financial decisions by collecting information, planning, and budgeting.  
SS.EC.1.9-12: Analyze how scarcity and incentives influence choices to consume or produce for different individuals and groups. |
| **Unit 1 Case Study: Scarcity and Business Decisions**  
Students consider a personal example and then a business example of the challenges created by scarcity when a group has to work together to determine how to make the best use of time, talent, and treasure | **Objectives:**  
- Use economic reasoning to analyze opportunity costs and make budget decisions  
- Practice nominal group technique to make a group decision  
- Explain why scarcity matters | **Consumer Education:**  
- Understand economic principles that effect the consumer in the marketplace.  
- Understand that a budget is a plan for spending income.  
- Identify and set priorities for personal and family needs, wants, and goals.  
- Use the principles of money management in financial planning.  
- Become familiar with the function and uses of a budget.  
- Recognize that income must be allocated.  
- Understand the value of using resources effectively.  
- Develop a plan for saving and investing, based on personal and family values and goals, and on future financial needs.  
- Utilize available resources and management skills in spending the food dollar to achieve maximum satisfaction.  
- Develop an awareness of the values and benefits in preplanning, purchasing, and preparing food toward balanced, nutritious meals.  
- Evaluate the opportunity costs of using one's non-working time.  
- Evaluate the opportunity costs of one's recreational plan in relation to one's entire financial plan.  
- Analyze the major economic issues affecting the availability and distribution of private and public recreational facilities.  
- Understand the importance of budgeting costs and planning for payments. |
## Unit 2: Markets

### 2.1 Consumers Rule

Students learn about the economic term demand and investigate how economic demand explains how consumers influence the market, letting producers know what they want and are willing to buy. Students explore the following topics:

- Price-Allocation System
- Law of Demand
- The Demand Curve
- Consumer Demand Changes

### Reading Objectives:

- Explain how the price consumers are willing to pay and producers’ costs create a price-allocation system in market economies.
- Identify the conditions that would allow for both buyers and sellers to benefit from an exchange.
- Identify the effect of diminishing marginal utility on the price consumers are willing to pay for a good or service.
- Summarize the law of demand.
- Use the law of demand to predict changes in price and quantity demanded.
- Use the substitution and income effects to explain the law of demand.
- Differentiate between quantity demanded and demand.
- Explain how to graph a demand curve.
- Discuss market demand and demand elasticity.
- Identify the factors that shift demand.
- Evaluate how a change in a demand shifter will impact consumer demand.

### Hands-On Objectives:

- Compete with other businesses to stimulate demand, knowing that consumers face diminishing marginal utility.
- Graph demand curves.
- Hypothesize whether consumer demand is likely to be inelastic or elastic when the prices for a variety of goods和服务 change and then analyze the reasons why.
- Hypothesize whether consumer demand is likely to be inelastic or elastic when the prices for a variety of goods and services change and then analyze the reasons why.
- Develop a concept map that shows the connections among the key concepts related to how consumers affect what is available in the market.
- Define key terms related to consumer behavior.
- Analyze the factors related to consumer behavior.

### Illinois Economics Standards

SS.EC.5.9-12: Analyze the ways in which competition and government regulation influence what is produced and distributed in a market system.

**Consumer Education:**

- Comprehend that many suppliers are bidding and competing for one's recreational dollar.
- Analyze the major economic issues affecting the availability and distribution of private and public recreational facilities.
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<td>SS.EC.3.9-12: Evaluate how much competition exists within and among sellers and buyers in specific markets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2 Producers Provide</td>
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<td>SS.EC.5.9-12: Analyze the ways in which competition and government regulation influence what is produced and distributed in a market system.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>How do producers and consumers negotiate price with each other?</em></td>
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<td><strong>Consumer Education:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Students learn about the economic term supply as they examine the effect producers have in the market. Students explore the following topics:</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Describe the influence of change in supply and demand for workers in different occupations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Supply Boot Camp</td>
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<td>- Describe how society’s needs and functions affect the supply of goods and services.</td>
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<td>▪ Supply Shifters</td>
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<td>- Gain an awareness of the consumer's power to influence the marketplace.</td>
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<td>▪ Market-Clearing Price</td>
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<td>- Comprehend that many suppliers are bidding and competing for one's recreational dollar.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Competition and Market Structure</td>
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<td>- Analyze the major economic issues affecting the availability and distribution of private and public recreational facilities.</td>
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<td><strong>Hands-On Objectives:</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>- Evaluate the optimal goods to supply ratio</td>
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<td>- Predict how supply curves will shift given changes in various costs and policies</td>
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<td>- Determine how a business owner would change supply in response to a change in the price consumers are willing and able to pay for their goods</td>
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<td>- Understand the role sellers and buyers play in determining the market-clearing price of a good</td>
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<td>- Evaluate the impact of firms operating in different market structures</td>
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<td>- Examine various policy options available to a city council debating how to revitalize downtown areas</td>
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<td>- Construct a concept map</td>
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<td>- Explain demand, supply, and market equilibrium</td>
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<td>- Define key terms related to how producers and consumers negotiate price with each other</td>
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<td>- Analyze the factors that affect how producers and consumers negotiate price with each other</td>
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## Unit 2: Markets
### 2.3 Economic Growth
*What makes economic growth possible?*

Students explore how consumers and business owners need each other as they focus on economic growth and what makes growth possible. They learn about the specific foundational elements needed in a society to allow for economic growth and general wealth, including the following:

- Rule of law and property rights
- Competition drives growth
- Human and physical capital and financial markets
- Entrepreneurship and technological advances

### Key Learning Objectives

**Reading Objectives:**
- Describe how the rule of law supports economic growth
- Explain how fair courts support rule of law and property rights
- Recognize three ways in which private property supports economic growth
- List the benefits brought about by competition
- Define creative destruction and explain how it contributes to economic growth
- Describe how free trade opens opportunities for economic growth
- Identify types of capital that businesses use to produce goods and services
- Explain how economic growth is influenced by investments in human and physical capital
- Describe the role of financial markets in a growing economy
- Assess the role of entrepreneurship in economic growth and prosperity
- Describe how technological innovation increases productivity
- Explain how technology advancement stimulates economic growth
- Describe how limited government helps people prosper
- Identify how the government determines what to tax
- Recognize the different types of taxes

**Hands-On Objectives:**
- Analyze the importance of establishing property rights.
- Predict results of boundary disputes
- Analyze the impact of competition in specific industries
- Identify the country of origin for common items and analyze the comparative advantage of making the product there
- Analyze how improvements in human and physical capital contribute to productivity
- Determine what human capital is needed for success in a specific career choice
- Analyze how innovation causes creative destruction
- Determine the most effective tax policy to achieve specific national goals.
- Construct a concept map

### Illinois Economics Standards

- SS.EC.3.9-12: Evaluate how much competition exists within and among sellers and buyers in specific markets.
- SS.EC.6.9-12: Use data and economic indicators to analyze past and current states of the economy and predict future trends.
- SS.EC.8.9-12: Analyze how advances in technology and investment in capital goods and human capital affect economic growth and standards of living.

### Consumer Education:
- Understand economic principles that affect the consumer in the marketplace
- Identify a wide range of investment alternatives
- Evaluate investment alternatives on the basis of rate of return, liquidity, risk, and financial goals
- Identify sources of information on saving and investment options
- Evaluate the opportunity costs of using one's non-working time
- Evaluate the opportunity costs of one's recreational dollar in relation to one's entire financial plan
- Comprehend that many suppliers are bidding and competing for one's recreational dollar
- Analyze the major economic issues affecting the availability and distribution of private and public recreational facilities
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</table>
| **Unit 2: Markets** | **Reading Objectives:**  | SS.EC.5.9-12: Analyze the ways in which competition and government regulation influence what is produced and distributed in a market system.  
SS.EC.7.9-12: Describe how government policies are influenced by and impact a variety of stakeholders. |
| **2.4 Economic Systems and Structures** | • Differentiate between a command economy, a free market economy, and a mixed economy.  
• Evaluate efficiency, growth, and prosperity possibilities in each system.  
• Compare and contrast how the government and market makes decisions about resources.  
• Analyze the incentives and interactions of voters, politicians, and bureaucrats.  
• Describe economic freedom.  
• Recognize factors that influence a country’s level of economic freedom. |  |
| What happens when government expands its influence in market decisions? | **Hands-On Objectives:**  |  |
| Students take a deeper look at how different economic systems influence their daily lives. They will consider the question, "What happens when government expands its influence in market decisions?" as they learn about the following topics:  
• Economic systems and the market  
• Government versus market-based decisions  
• Government and growth  
• Economic freedom | • Hypothesize why there are no pure market economies in the world today.  
• Evaluate how limited government intervention in a market economy can have a positive effect.  
• Create and perform an advertisement for an event based on the principles of a command or market economy.  
• Analyze how market economies have come to exist within North Korea’s command economy.  
• Analyze how scarcity and competition influence decision making in the government…  
• Explore the level of economic freedom in various countries and make recommendations on how to increase it.  
• Define key terms related to economic systems and structures.  
• Compare economic systems and structures and evaluate how limited government intervention affects market outcomes. |  |
| **Consumer Education:** | • Understand economic principles that effect the consumer in the marketplace  
• Understand that taxes are used to raise revenue and transfer resources from use by private individuals to use by various levels of government  
• Understand that the continued increase in taxes at local, state, and federal government levels is largely due to a demand for increased services paid for with public funds  
• Recognize that citizens have a responsibility to inform local, state, and federal government officials when tax policies are unwise, unfair, and inappropriate  
• Understand how progressive, regressive, and proportional taxes affect different income groups  
• Analyze the major economic issues affecting the availability and distribution of private and public recreational facilities |  |
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<td><strong>Unit 2 Project- Supply and Demand</strong>&lt;br&gt;Students will research a “superfood” that has experienced recent dramatic growth in the market. They will analyze the factors affecting supply and demand and write a blog post analyzing the economics of their selected products.</td>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Explain the interaction of supply and demand in the market&lt;br&gt;• Analyze how a market reacts to changes in supply and demand&lt;br&gt;• Use graphs to illustrate changes in supply and demand</td>
<td>SS.EC.5.9-12: Analyze the ways in which competition and government regulation influence what is produced and distributed in a market system.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Consumer Education:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Describe the influence of change in supply and demand for workers in different occupations.&lt;br&gt;• Describe how society’s needs and functions affect the supply of goods and services.&lt;br&gt;• Comprehend that many suppliers are bidding and competing for one’s recreational dollar&lt;br&gt;• Analyze the major economic issues affecting the availability and distribution of private and public recreational facilities</td>
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<td><strong>Case Study- Government and the Market</strong>&lt;br&gt;Students consider the personal and business consequences of making hasty decisions rather than using critical thinking, based on data and other factual information. Students apply the RED model to a price ceiling situation.</td>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Use the RED model to make an economic decision&lt;br&gt;• Explain why consumers and business owners need each other</td>
<td>SS.EC.4.9-12: Evaluate the effectiveness of government policies to improve market outcomes, address inequality, or reduce inefficiencies.&lt;br&gt;SS.EC.7.9-12: Describe how government policies are influenced by and impact a variety of stakeholders.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Consumer Education:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Address essential questions that reflect an enduring issue in the field.&lt;br&gt;• Explain how supporting questions contribute to an inquiry.&lt;br&gt;• Develop new supporting and essential questions through investigation, collaboration, and using diverse sources.&lt;br&gt;• Construct and evaluate explanations and arguments using multiple sources and relevant, verified information.&lt;br&gt;• Articulate explanations and arguments to a targeted audience in diverse settings.</td>
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### Unit 3: National Economy

#### 3.1 Government's Role in a Flourishing Market Economy

*How can limited government help consumers and businesses prosper?*

Students will learn more about the government's role in the economy. They will consider the question, "How can limited government help consumers and businesses prosper?" as they learn about the following topics:

- Property rights, public goods, and market failures
- The role of financial markets
- Banks and other financial institutions
- Economics of government failures

#### Reading Objectives:

- List the three roles of a limited government
- Recognize the characteristics of a public good
- Identify situations when government should address market failure
- Describe the roles individuals living in households and operating businesses play in capital markets
- Identify ways businesses can raise funds for capital investments
- Explain how the flow of household savings to business investment leads to economic growth and prosperity
- Identify the forms of money in the United States’ money supply
- Recognize the three functions of stable money
- Recognize the equation of exchange
- Explain how the fractional reserve banking system works to create money and boost investment
- Provide an example of government failure, including the concentrated benefits and dispersed costs
- Recognize the three types of government failure
- Identify government’s basic use of monetary, fiscal, and trade policy in a free enterprise economy

#### Hands-On Objectives:

- Compare and contrast public and private goods
- Evaluate a variety of goods and services and determine which should be provided as a public good
- Formulate strategies for personal saving that can maximize lifetime consumption
- Analyze how the fractional reserve system helps to increase the money supply in the economy
- Analyze the effects of price floors
- Evaluate the incentives politicians face when determining how to respond to demands to cut spending
- Construct a concept map linking ideas related to government role in a flourishing market economy
- Define key terms related to government role in a flourishing market economy
- Analyze how limited government can help consumers and businesses prosper

#### Illinois Economics Standards

SS.EC.7.9-12: Describe how government policies are influenced by and impact a variety of stakeholders.

#### Consumer Education:

- Understand the factors which influence decision making.
- Be aware of the role of government in the private enterprise system.
- Understand important economic measurements of the economy.
- Identify and set priorities for personal and family needs, wants, and goals.
- Use the principles of money management in financial planning.
- Understand the relationship between savings and investing and the achievement of financial goals.
- Understand the relationship between inflation, the real value of investments, and rate of returns.
- Recognize that savings and investing goals may change at different stages in the life cycle.
- Identify the types of financial institutions and the services they offer.
- Identify investment alternatives for income, growth and tax reduction.
- Evaluate investment alternatives on the basis of rate of return, liquidity, risk, and financial goals.
- Identify sources of information on saving and investment options.
- Develop a plan for saving and investing, based on personal and family values and goals, and on future financial needs.
- Understand that taxes are used to raise revenue and transfer resources from use by private individuals to use by various levels of government.
- Understand that the continued increase in taxes at local, state, and federal government levels is largely due to a demand for increased services paid for with public funds.
- Recognize that citizens have a responsibility to inform local, state, and federal government officials when tax policies are unwise, unfair, and inappropriate.
- Analyze the impact of deficit spending on the economy.
- Understand why governments engage in deficit spending.
- Understand how progressive, regressive, and proportional taxes affect different income groups.
- Understand the difference between the public and private sectors in the purchase and use of services.
# Unit 3: National Economy

## 3.2 The Role of the Federal Government

What are the effects of fiscal policies?

Students examine the effects of fiscal policies (spending and taxing) as they learn more about the role the government plays in the economy. Students will look at the following topics as they frame an answer to the essential question, "What are the effects of fiscal policies?"

- Introduction to macroeconomics
- Business cycles and unemployment
- Fiscal policies
- Taxes, spending, deficits, and debt

## Reading Objectives:

- Identify the characteristics of a healthy, growing economy
- Describe the process for the government’s economic problem solving
- Recognize how GDP is calculated and used to measure the overall health of the economy
- Label and describe the components of the business cycle
- Define unemployment and identify the types of unemployment
- Recognize strategies for dealing with personal unemployment
- Define fiscal policies and apply them to economic failures
- Recognize why the federal government uses fiscal policies
- Recognize intended and unintended consequences of fiscal policies
- Describe key changes in the government’s power to tax
- Identify examples of goods and services the government provides using tax money
- Recognize positive and negative impacts of taxes and government spending
- Explain the two perspectives on deficit-spending and the national debt’s growing share of GDP

## Hands-On Objectives:

- Differentiate between nominal and real GDP and interpret what changes in each measure imply about the U.S. economy
- Analyze the factors influencing changes in the labor force participation rate over time
- Formulate strategies for dealing with the four different types of unemployment that a person may face in his or her lifetime
- Analyze the factors that affect the degree to which fiscal policy can help economies recover from downturns
- Debate the pros and cons of government involvement in the economy
- Analyze the impact of budget deficits on students’ personal futures and determine the best way for the U.S. to finance future changes to fiscal policy
- Construct a concept map linking ideas related to the effects of fiscal policies
- Define key terms related to the effects of fiscal policies

## Illinois Economics Standards

SS.EC.4.9-12: Evaluate the effectiveness of government policies to improve market outcomes, address inequality, or reduce inefficiencies.

SS.EC.7.9-12: Describe how government policies are influenced by and impact a variety of stakeholders.

SS.EC.5.9-12: Analyze the ways in which competition and government regulation influence what is produced and distributed in a market system.

## Consumer Education:

- Understand the role of the consumer in the economy interacting with agriculture, business, government, labor and trade unions.
- Become familiar with the role of labor organizations in the private and public sectors of the economy.
- Be aware of the role of government in the private enterprise system.
- Understand important economic measurements of the economy.
- Understand that at different periods in life, financial plans of individuals and families change.
- Recognize that savings and investing goals may change at different stages in the life cycle.
- Understand that taxes are used to raise revenue and transfer resources from use by private individuals to use by various levels of government.
- Understand that the continued increase in taxes at local, state, and federal government levels is largely due to a demand for increased services paid for with public funds.
- Recognize that citizens have a responsibility to inform local, state, and federal government officials when tax policies are unwise, unfair, and inappropriate.
- Analyze the impact of deficit spending on the economy.
- Understand why governments engage in deficit spending.
- Understand how progressive, regressive, and proportional taxes affect different income groups.
### Unit 3: National Economy

#### 3.3 The Role of Money and Banking

*What are the effects of monetary policies?*

Students examine monetary policies. They will take a closer look at the importance of money, how it changes value over time, and the availability of it through credit. As they frame an answer to the question, "What are the effects of monetary policies?" These are the topics they will investigate:
- Money in a modern economy
- Interest rates
- Inflation

#### Reading Objectives:
- Describe the history and mission of the Federal Reserve System
- Recognize the structure of the Federal Reserve System
- Describe the tools of monetary policy and how they help the Federal Reserve System accomplish its goals
- Describe how monetary policies use interest rates to influence behaviors in savers and borrowers
- Distinguish between real interest rate and nominal interest rate
- Identify factors leading to higher or lower interest rates for borrowing and lending
- Define inflation, and describe its effect on purchasing power
- Recognize the effects of inflation in the macro-economy
- Explain the intended and possible unintended consequences of monetary policy to manage inflation

#### Hands-On Objectives:
- Examine how frequent banking panics led to the creation of the Federal Reserve System
- Examine the methods used by the Federal Reserve to influence the availability of money and credit
- Examine the effects of changes in interest rates on the economic behavior of consumers and businesses
- Analyze the impact of compounding interest on students’ ability to save for the future
- Examine the impact of inflation on household budgets and determine strategies for adjusting to inflation
- Examine the causes of stagflation and the limitations of fiscal and monetary policy to deal with it
- Construct a concept map linking ideas related to the effects of monetary policies
- Define key terms related to the effects of monetary policies
- Analyze the reasons for and effects of monetary policies

#### Illinois Economics Standards
- SS.EC.4.9-12: Evaluate the effectiveness of government policies to improve market outcomes, address inequality, or reduce inefficiencies.
- SS.EC.5.9-12: Analyze the ways in which competition and government regulation influence what is produced and distributed in a market system.
- SS.EC.7.9-12: Describe how government policies are influenced by and impact a variety of stakeholders.

#### Consumer Education:
- Be aware of the role of government in the private enterprise system.
- Understand the relationship between inflation, the real value of investments, and rate of returns.
## Unit 3: National Economy

### 3.4 National Economic Indicators

**How do you measure the success of the economy?**

Students learn more about national economic indicators, exploring the macroeconomic data that policy makers collect, monitor, analyze, and use to make forecasts in order to make policy choices. They will examine the effects of policy decisions and economic freedom on business and household affairs. Students will explore the following topics as they frame an answer to the essential question, "How do you measure the success of the economy?"

- Macroeconomic indicators
- Everyday economist: how can I know how we are doing?
- "No policy" option: economic freedom

### Reading Objectives:
- Recognize key economic indicators, and what they indicate
- Describe key price indexes, and explain how they differ
- Explain how you can use a price index to make informed choices
- Identify the fiscal and monetary policies that may be used in response to a recession
- Identify the fiscal and monetary policies that may be used in response to an inflation
- Define economic freedom
- Analyze how economic freedom influences other measures of well-being
- Evaluate how economic freedom impacts your life

### Hands-On Objectives:
- Compare endowments of human capital in the U.S. with those in a developing country
- Analyze the factors affecting productivity and per capita income in different countries
- Calculate the CPI for four cities and the overall CPI rate for the economy
- Recognize the effects of tariffs
- Examine problems associated with recessions and inflation and determine the most effective policy option(s) to remedy them
- Analyze the impact of market freedom on a network of food banks
- Construct a concept map linking ideas related to measures of economic well being
- Define key terms related to measures of the success of the economy
- Analyze what different economic measures indicate about the success of the economy

### Economics Standards

SS.EC.6.9-12: Use data and economic indicators to analyze past and current states of the economy and predict future trends.

**Consumer Education:**

- Be aware of the role of government in the private enterprise system.
- Understand important economic measurements of the economy.
- Understand the relationship between inflation, the real value of investments, and rate of returns.
- Analyze the impact of deficit spending on the economy.
### Topic Descriptions

#### Unit 3 Project: Surviving Unemployment

Students research unemployment benefits and analyze the impact of unemployment on a household. Then they develop an unemployment survival guide to share information and strategies for avoiding and coping with unemployment.

**Objectives:**
- Explain what unemployment insurance is and how it works
- Describe the four types of unemployment
- Identify strategies an individual can use to prepare for periods of unemployment

**Consumer Education:**
- Understand that the continued increase in taxes at local, state, and federal government levels is largely due to a demand for increased services paid for with public funds.
- Address essential questions that reflect an enduring issue in the field.
- Explain how supporting questions contribute to an inquiry.
- Develop new supporting and essential questions through investigation, collaboration, and using diverse sources.
- Construct and evaluate explanations and arguments using multiple sources and relevant, verified information.
- Explain how to make informed financial decisions by collecting information, planning, and budgeting.
- Explain how time, interest rates, and inflation influence saving patterns over a lifetime.

#### Unit 3 Case Study: Government Referee

Students consider personal and business situations that require a third party to intercede. Students then brainstorm and research possible solutions to a conflict between business owners and homeowners and present their ideas in a written argument.

**Objectives:**
- Analyze the role government plays in market situations
- Write an argument supporting a position related to government intervention

**Consumer Education:**
- Address essential questions that reflect an enduring issue in the field.
- Explain how supporting questions contribute to an inquiry.
- Develop new supporting and essential questions through investigation, collaboration, and using diverse sources.
- Construct and evaluate explanations and arguments using multiple sources and relevant, verified information.
- Articulate explanations and arguments to a targeted audience in diverse settings.
- Analyze the ways in which competition and government regulation influence what is produced and distributed in a market system.

**Economics Standards**
- SS.EC.4.9-12: Evaluate the effectiveness of government policies to improve market outcomes, address inequality, or reduce inefficiencies.
### Unit 4: International Trade

#### 4.1 International Trade

Do the benefits of international trade outweigh the costs?

Some people want free and open trade of goods, services, and resources sold internationally with limited government interference. On the other hand, some people feel we'd be better off if the government closed the borders and made the country more self-sufficient. Students learn about each of the two perspectives to make an informed decision about these opposing approaches to trade.

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<td><strong>Constructing Essential Questions:</strong>&lt;br&gt;SS.IS.1.9-12: Address essential questions that reflect an enduring issue in the field.&lt;br&gt;SS.IS.2.9-12: Explain how supporting questions contribute to an inquiry.&lt;br&gt;SS.IS.3.9-12: Develop new supporting and essential questions through investigation, collaboration, and using diverse sources.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Communicating Conclusions</strong> SS.IS.6.9-12: Construct and evaluate explanations and arguments using multiple sources and relevant, verified information.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Critiquing Conclusions</strong> SS.IS.7.9-12: Articulate explanations and arguments to a targeted audience in diverse settings.&lt;br&gt;SS.EC.10.9-12: Explain how globalization trends and policies affect social, political, and economic conditions in different nations.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Consumer Education:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Address essential questions that reflect an enduring issue in the field.&lt;br&gt;• Explain how supporting questions contribute to an inquiry.&lt;br&gt;• Develop new supporting and essential questions through investigation, collaboration, and using diverse sources.&lt;br&gt;• Construct and evaluate explanations and arguments using multiple sources and relevant, verified information.&lt;br&gt;• Explain how globalization trends and policies affect social, political, and economic conditions in different nations.</td>
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| **Unit 4: International Trade**  
4.2 Trade Policies: Beyond Free Trade  
*Do the benefits of trade barriers outweigh the costs?*  
Trade barriers, by design, slow or prevent trade with another country by adding a limitation on the free trade between the buyers and sellers. These take different forms and lead to different outcomes—both intended and unintended. Students examine the benefits and costs of building trade barriers between international borders as they form an answer to the question, "Do the benefits of trade barriers outweigh the costs?" | **Reading Objectives:**  
- Describe at least three trade policy tools  
- Identify the two choices the U.S. can make to encourage free trade  
- Recognize the role of NAFTA, EU, and WTO in international trade  
- Use economic reasoning to compare and contrast the outcomes of trade barriers versus free trade  
- Analyze and evaluate trade barriers and free trade and decide which model will lead to the best market outcomes and quality of life  
- Evaluate government and market solutions for handling problems in the market economy  | **Constructing Essential Questions:**  
SS.IS.1.9-12: Address essential questions that reflect an enduring issue in the field.  
Communicating Conclusions SS.IS.6.9-12: Construct and evaluate explanations and arguments using multiple sources and relevant, verified information.  
Critiquing Conclusions SS.IS.7.9-12: Articulate explanations and arguments to a targeted audience in diverse settings.  
SS.EC.10.9-12: Explain how globalization trends and policies affect social, political, and economic conditions in different nations  
**Consumer Education:**  
- Address essential questions that reflect an enduring issue in the field.  
- Explain how supporting questions contribute to an inquiry.  
- Develop new supporting and essential questions through investigation, collaboration, and using diverse sources.  
- Construct and evaluate explanations and arguments using multiple sources and relevant, verified information.  
- Explain how globalization trends and policies affect social, political, and economic conditions in different nations. |
| **Hands-On Objectives:**  
- Gather evidence about a debate topic and evaluate the credibility of sources  
- Develop clear arguments that include a claim, warrants, and impact  
- Present a clear position in an argument that appeals to listeners and addresses opposing viewpoints  
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- Evaluate government and market solutions for handling problems in the market economy |
### Unit 4: International Trade

#### 4.3 Trade Deficits

**Do the benefits of a trade deficit outweigh the costs?**

Students learn about imports and exports and how these global exchanges influence the United States economy. Today, with more openness to international trade, the share of the total RGDP that is made up of exports and imports is over 30 percent. Students explore what it means to us as a country when we are importing more than we're exporting—meaning a trade deficit—as they answer the question, "Do the benefits of a trade deficit outweigh the costs?"

#### Reading Objectives:
- Define globalization and at least two effects it has had in the world economy
- Describe the difference between balance of payments and balance of trade
- Evaluate productivity for lower-wage developing nations and higher-productivity advanced nations
- Analyze different perspectives on the government reducing the trade deficit versus free trade
- Evaluate the benefits and cost of government influencing the imports and exports of a nation

#### Hands-On Objectives:
- Gather evidence about a debate topic and evaluate the credibility of sources
- Develop clear arguments that include a claim, warrants, and impact
- Present a clear position in an argument that appeals to listeners and addresses opposing viewpoints
- Analyze and discuss the benefits and costs of a trade deficit
- Define globalization and at least two effects it has had in the world economy
- Describe the difference between balance of payments and balance of trade
- Evaluate productivity for lower-wage developing nations and higher-productivity advanced nations
- Analyze different perspectives on the government reducing the trade deficit versus free trade
- Evaluate the benefits and cost of government influencing the imports and exports of a nation

#### Constructing Essential Questions:

**SS.IS.1.9-12:** Address essential questions that reflect an enduring issue in the field.

**Communicating Conclusions SS.IS.6.9-12:** Construct and evaluate explanations and arguments using multiple sources and relevant, verified information.

**Critiquing Conclusions SS.IS.7.9-12:** Articulate explanations and arguments to a targeted audience in diverse settings.

**SS.EC.7.9-12:** Describe how government policies are influenced by and impact a variety of stakeholders.

**SS.EC.10.9-12:** Explain how globalization trends and policies affect social, political, and economic conditions in different nations.

#### Consumer Education:
- Address essential questions that reflect an enduring issue in the field.
- Explain how supporting questions contribute to an inquiry.
- Develop new supporting and essential questions through investigation, collaboration, and using diverse sources.
- Construct and evaluate explanations and arguments using multiple sources and relevant, verified information.
- Analyze the role of comparative advantage in local, national, and global trade of goods and services.
- Explain how globalization trends and policies affect social, political, and economic conditions in different nations.
### Unit 4: International Trade

#### 4.4 Social Problems: Government or Market Solutions?

*Can economics solve social problems?*

Students learn about the impact of global trade on social issues. They explore ways the free market and government policies can address social issues as they frame an answer to the question: "Can economics solve social problems?" Costs?"

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<td>• Evaluate the best solution for addressing social issues related to international trade—the international market or U.S. government policies</td>
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<td><strong>Unit 4 Project: International Trade</strong>&lt;br&gt;Students consider how international trade affects a household budget by completing a shopping spree activity. They then conduct research on an American-made product and a product that is no longer made in America to investigate the economic reasons behind their decisions.</td>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong>&lt;br&gt;▪ Analyze the role government plays in market situations&lt;br&gt;▪ Write an argument supporting a position related to government intervention&lt;br&gt;<strong>Consumer Education:</strong>&lt;br&gt;▪ Address essential questions that reflect an enduring issue in the field.&lt;br&gt;▪ Explain how supporting questions contribute to an inquiry.&lt;br&gt;▪ Develop new supporting and essential questions through investigation, collaboration, and using diverse sources.&lt;br&gt;▪ Construct and evaluate explanations and arguments using multiple sources and relevant, verified information.&lt;br&gt;▪ Explain how globalization trends and policies affect social, political, and economic conditions in different nations.</td>
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<td><strong>Unit 4 Case Study: Weighted Pros and Cons</strong>&lt;br&gt;Students use a weighted pro and con list to determine whether or not a business should expand internationally.</td>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong>&lt;br&gt;▪ Use a weighted pro and con list to make a business decision&lt;br&gt;<strong>Consumer Education:</strong>&lt;br&gt;▪ Address essential questions that reflect an enduring issue in the field.&lt;br&gt;▪ Explain how supporting questions contribute to an inquiry.&lt;br&gt;▪ Develop new supporting and essential questions through investigation, collaboration, and using diverse sources.&lt;br&gt;▪ Construct and evaluate explanations and arguments using multiple sources and relevant, verified information.&lt;br&gt;▪ Explain how globalization trends and policies affect social, political, and economic conditions in different nations.</td>
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