

National Content Standards for Grades 6–8

LESSON #1 Getting Started: Goods and Services

Economics

Standard 2: Understands characteristics of different economic systems, economic institutions, and economic incentives

1. Understands that employers are willing to pay wages and salaries to workers because they expect to sell the goods and services those workers produce at prices high enough to cover the wages and salaries and all other costs of production

8. Understands that in a market economy the pursuit of economic self-interest directs people and businesses in most of their economic decisions

Standard 6: Understands the roles government plays in the United States economy

Understands that governments provide public goods because of the properties of shared consumption and non-exclusion

LESSON #2 Who Am I?: Student Self-Discovery

Economics

Standard 2: Understands characteristics of different economic systems, economic institutions, and economic incentives

8. Understands that in a market economy the pursuit of economic self-interest directs people and businesses in most of their economic decisions

9. Understands that many non-economic factors influence patterns of economic behavior and decision making

Language Arts

Reading Standard 5: Uses the general skills and strategies of the reading process

6. Reflects on what has been learned after reading and formulates ideas, opinions, and personal responses to texts

Writing Standard 1: Uses the general skills and strategies of the writing process

9. Writes autobiographical compositions

Life Skills

Self-Regulation Standard 1: Sets and manages goals

11. Displays a sense of personal direction and purpose

Self-Regulation Standard 2: Performs self-appraisal

8. Understands how hobbies, personal interests, and aptitudes can lead to a career

10. Understands preferred working environments

13. Identifies personal motivational patterns, personality characteristics, and style

Thinking and Reasoning Standard 5: Applies basic trouble-shooting and problem-solving techniques

2. Selects the most appropriate strategy or alternative for solving a problem

Working With Others Standard 4: Displays effective interpersonal communication skills

4. Provides feedback in a constructive manner, and recognizes the importance of seeking and receiving constructive feedback in a nondefensive manner

LESSON #3 The View From the Top of the Mountain

Language Arts

Writing Standard 4: Gathers and uses information for research purposes

1. Gathers data for research topics from interviews

Life Skills

Self-Regulation Standard 1: Sets and manages goals
2. Creates an action plan to achieve long-term goals that includes strategic, practical steps and that accounts for the resources needed to achieve these goals
3. Identifies and monitors resources necessary to achieve a goal
8. Makes a cumulative evaluation of a goal (e.g., determines how well the goal has been accomplished) according to explicit criteria
Working With Others Standard 4: Displays effective interpersonal communication skills
13. Acknowledges the strengths and achievements of others
LESSON #4 Busting the Gender Gap
United States History
Standard 26: Understands the economic boom and social transformation of post-World War II United States
1. Understands the impact of postwar scientific research on contemporary society
Standard 29: Understands the struggle for racial and gender equality and for the extension of civil liberties
3. Understands the development of the post-World War II women’s movement
Standard 31: Understands economic, social, and cultural developments in the contemporary United States
1. Understands changes in the contemporary workplace
Language Arts
Writing Standard 4: Gathers and uses information for research purposes
1. Gathers data for research topics from interviews
Technology
Standard 3: Understands the relationships among science, technology, society, and the individual
3. Knows ways in which technology has influenced the course of history
5. Knows ways in which technology and society influence one another
LESSON #5 Mentors: Students Learn From Others
Language Arts
Writing Standard 4: Gathers and uses information for research purposes
1. Gathers data for research topics from interviews
Listening and Speaking Standard 8: Uses listening and speaking strategies for different purposes
2. Asks questions to seek elaboration and clarification of ideas
3. Uses strategies to enhance listening comprehension
9. Understands the ways in which language differs across a variety of social situations
Working With Others Standard 4: Displays effective interpersonal communication skills
13. Acknowledges the strengths and achievements of others
LESSON #6 What's My Line?: Students Explore Career Possibilities
Language Arts
Writing Standard 4: Gathers and uses information for research purposes

3. Uses a variety of resource materials to gather information for research topics
Listening and Speaking Standard 8: Uses listening and speaking strategies for different purposes
2. Asks questions to seek elaboration and clarification of ideas
6. Makes oral presentations to the class
7. Uses appropriate verbal and nonverbal techniques for oral presentations
LESSON #7 A Word About Money
Economics
Standard 1: Understands that scarcity of productive resources requires choices that generate opportunity costs
2. Knows that all decisions involve opportunity costs and that effective economic decision making involves weighing the costs and benefits associated with alternative choices
3. Understands that the evaluation of choices and opportunity costs is subjective and differs across individuals and societies
Standard 2: Understands characteristics of different economic systems, economic institutions, and economic incentives
5. Understands the types of specialized economic institutions found in market economies
6. Understands that economic incentives such as wanting to acquire money or goods and services and wanting to avoid loss are powerful forces affecting the way people behave
7. Understands that entrepreneurs respond to incentives such as profits, the opportunity to be their own boss, the chance to achieve recognition, the satisfaction of creating new products, and disincentives such as losses and the responsibility, long hours, and stress of
8. Understands that in a market economy the pursuit of economic self-interest directs people and businesses in most of their economic decisions
9. Understands that many non-economic factors influence patterns of economic behavior and decision making
Standard 5: Understands unemployment, income, and income distribution in a market economy
1. Knows the four basic categories of earned income: wages and salaries, rent, interest, and profit
2. Understands that wages and salary are influenced by forces of supply and demand for labor, as well as an individual's productivity, education, training and skills
Language Arts
Writing Standard 1: Uses the general skills and strategies of the writing process
5. Uses content, style, and structure appropriate for specific audiences and purposes
Life Skills
Thinking and Reasoning Standard 6: Applies decision-making techniques
1. Identifies situations in the community and in one's personal life in which a decision is required
Mathematics
Standard 2: Understands and applies basic and advanced properties of the concepts of numbers
1. Understands the relationships among equivalent number representations and the advantages and disadvantages of each type of representation
Standard 3: Uses basic and advanced procedures while performing the processes of computation
1. Adds, subtracts, multiplies, and divides integers, and rational numbers
4. Selects and uses appropriate computational methods for a given situation
Standard 9: Understands the general nature and uses of mathematics
1. Understands that mathematics has been helpful in practical ways for many centuries
SOURCE: McREL (Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning) Compendium of National Standards and Benchmarks; NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English); NCEE (National Council on Economic Education); NCSS (National Council for the Social