

Energy and People

Unit 5: Family Budget Activity



An activity designed to make the student aware of the effects of regulation on the family budget and how the change in family spending has an effect on the economy.

Grades 8-12 Lesson Plan

Learner Outcomes

The students will be able to identify various effects of regulatory activities on the family budget and on the economic activity around them.

Lesson Time

20 minutes to one half hour

Materials Needed

- Budget Worksheet
- Calculator

Preparation

This should be done in Social Science after studying the economy and after the family budgeting lesson.

Activity

1. Separate the class out into small groups of 4 or 5 students each.
2. Give them paychecks (if you want to make it realistic) and have them rearrange their budgets for the now higher energy prices. Remind them of the choices they would be making in each category. It might be useful to assign role playing: Designate someone as the mother, father, and children; have them try to think like they actually would in those roles. Their choices should be based on realistic changes in spending, i.e., wants should be reduced and not necessities.
3. For the budget activities they cut out, have them determine what kinds of jobs would be affected by their reduction in spending, assuming other families make similar choices.
4. Have them discuss what effect that might have on the economy as a whole. What industries would be most affected?

Assessment

Collect the worksheets and determine how accurate they were in calculations. Were they realistic in the items they cut out of their budgets? How active was the group in general in discussing their decisions?