



Teaching About the Federal Reserve

August 02, 2022

The Federal Reserve, the nation's central bank, promotes stability in the economy and financial systems and also serves public interest. Created by Congress in 1913, the Fed consists of the Board of Governors, 12 Reserve Banks, and the Federal Open Market Committee. Helping students better understand the Fed can enable them to make more informed personal financial decisions and better understand how the economy works.

Grades PreK-5

Early Forms of Money Lesson

This lesson introduces students to the characteristics of money and various forms of money used in the past. Students will also evaluate items used as money to determine which functioned best and how it compares to currency and coin used today.

Jay Flies Through 10-J

This lesson introduces the roles of entrepreneur and investor in the context of starting a business.

Money Museum Fun Guide

Join Jay Eagle in this fun guide of games and brainteasers about money. Use any combination of the activities and word games to have fun when learning about money and the Federal Reserve.

Payment Parliament

In this role play lesson, introduce students to different payment methods, the costs and benefits of each and how the Federal Reserve System processes payments.

There's No Business Like Bank Business

This lesson and role play introduces students to the benefits of saving money in a bank. It explains earning interest on savings, as well as paying interest for a loan. Students learn how a bank receives its money and how it operates as a business.

To Pay the Price

Learn about online banking and electronic payments through a quiz show role play that also covers security measures for automated payments and how the Federal Reserve System helps process these payments.

Your Central Bank

In this video, learn from Jay the Eagle about what the Federal Reserve System does for the economy.

Grades 6-8

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Grades 9-12

Balance of Power Teaching Guide

Use these activities with the historical "Balance of Power" book to learn about the Federal Reserve's role through history.

Beige Book in the Classroom

Help students understand different economic sectors through the lens of the Federal Reserve's Beige Book.

Exploring Economic Sectors

Students review the Federal Reserve's Beige Book which assesses economic conditions in the U.S. Sector descriptions and discussion questions to apply information to students' everyday lives are included.

[The Fed and You Lesson](#)

This lesson plan focuses on the functions of the Federal Reserve System and its mission areas. Using a video to take notes, students will become reporters, using their notes to write an article for the school or local newspaper about the Fed. Watch the accompanying video [here](#).

[Federal Reserve Centennial Lessons](#)

These lessons help high school students understand Fed history, Fed functions and how the roles of the Fed have evolved over time. All of the lessons are tied to the Common Core and national content standards in social studies and economics.

[Founding Fathers' Feud](#)

Students review the origins of the Constitution and its predecessor, the Articles of Confederation. They learn about the differences between those who identified as Federalists and Anti-Federalists, and their opinions on a central bank.

[Liberty Loan Bonds and the Federal Reserve](#)

A presentation introduces students to the Federal Reserve and the role it played in helping the U.S. finance WWI. Students receive historical WWI personas and they plan a budget with a goal of saving to purchase Liberty Loans to support the war effort.

[The Modern Federal Reserve System: Changes and trends in Federal Reserve Functions](#)

In this lesson, students participate in an activity to help them understand the difference between a change and a trend. They learn about the traditional functions of the Federal Reserve System.

[What Makes a Senator](#)

This lesson plan discusses the life and legacy of Robert L. Owen, an Oklahoma senator who was one of the primary sponsors of the Federal Reserve Act of 1913.

Media

Your Central Bank

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csPWzRmOKOk>