

# Exploring Economics Project Ideas

## Unit 1 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- What would you do with five hundred dollars? Explain your reasons (see Lesson 1).
- Explain the ways that your household is involved in economics (jobs held; stores and other businesses patronized; property owned; charities supported, etc.).

2) Create a poster-sized work of art that represents the concept of supply and demand. Use the medium of your choice (paint, pastels, pencil, colored pencil, marker, ink, chalk, collage, etc.).

3) Conduct an interview with a parent or (with your parents' permission) another adult in your parents' or grandparents' generation. Ask your interviewee how he or she views economics; what his or her financial priorities are; major economic events in his or her own life and that they have experienced historically. Prepare at least seven questions ahead of time and try to keep the conversation within one hour to respect your interviewee's time. Use video or audio to record the interview.

## Unit 2 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- How would the economy change if people understood that they are stewards of the property, possessions, and money that belong to God instead of owners of them?
- Respond to the teaching of Jesus, "You cannot serve both God and wealth."

2) Discuss with your parents a specific project your family can do to help the poor. Consider programs organized by your church or other local churches (such as a food pantry, clothing distribution, or home repair) or with a local organization. With your parents involvement, plan and carry out this project.

3) Memorize Matthew 6:19-24.

## Unit 3 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on the first topic or write a poem:

- Write about the relationship the church as a body should have with material wealth. Should a church own possessions? Should a church have debt? Are large buildings and large budgets evidence of faithfulness? How can a church best steward finances? If possible, use Scripture to support your answers.
- Write a poem of at least twelve lines about the fellowship described in Acts 4:32-35.

2) Research and make a list of at least ten national Christian-owned companies. Include a brief description of the business and the location of the headquarters.

3) Write and perform a skit that creatively explores the topic of greed. Recruit siblings or friends to perform with you.

## Unit 4 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- What are good strategies to prepare for economic recessions and depressions?
- What do you think are the most important changes in the American economy in the last 100 years? Why are they important?

2) Make a commercial about one minute long encouraging people in Europe to settle in the American colonies (as if video commercials were possible at the time). Focus on the economic benefits of relocating.

3) Design a poster recruiting workers for American textile mills of the late 1700s and early 1800s.

## Unit 5 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- Write a short story about a choice that had significant impact.
- Write about your ideas for what you will do after you finish high school. You can discuss one plan or multiple possibilities. Write about the costs and benefits. Write about the motivations behind your goals and dreams.

2) Make a photo essay of at least twenty photos illustrating economic choices that are an everyday part of your family's life, both the ones you make and the ones that are made for you. Write captions for the photos.

3) Create a children's book with the title "Choices." Illustrate it yourself in the medium of your choice (photography, painting, drawing, etc.). The book can have words to accompany the pictures, or only pictures. Create a cover and at least 20 pages.

## Unit 6 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- Why is the price system the best way to distribute goods and services and satisfy the most people?
- Reflect on this quotation of Henry David Thoreau, "The price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it."

2) If you know someone who owns a business supplying goods or services, ask to interview him or her (with your parents' permission). Ask about how they make decisions regarding supply and demand; how they set prices; their peak times and off-peak times; how they use advertising to influence supply and demand; and any other ideas you have. Prepare at least seven questions ahead of time and try to keep the conversation within one hour to respect your interviewee's time. Use video or audio to record the interview.

3) Make a chart with the following items along the left column: gallon of milk, dozen eggs, bath towel, adult sneakers, and coffee mug. Locate those items at 5 different stores in your area. You do not have to locate products of the same type or brand. For each product that you locate, list the store, price, place of manufacture, and your perspective of the quality on a scale of 1 to 5. After you have completed the research, write a paragraph about each product and give your theories and opinions on the reasons for prices, quality, and the marketing behind each of these products and the stores that sell them.

## Unit 7 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- How do banks benefit your family? Be specific about the services your family uses and why.
- Do you think that income from investments should be taxed at a higher rate than other forms of income? Explain why or why not (see Lesson 33).

2) Choose a local bank and call, visit, or use the bank's website to do the following activities:

**Investment:** Determine the best long-term option for investment the bank offers. If you put \$100 per month in this investment plan, how much would you have at the end of 30 years, assuming the interest on the investment remained the same?

**Mortgage:** Find out the average interest rate for home mortgages from the same bank. If you had a \$150,000 mortgage, payable over 30 years, how much would you pay per month? What would be your total payout over the 30 years?

3) Memorize 1 Timothy 6:6-10.

## Unit 8 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- Write a speech outlining your views on trade. Should U.S. corporations or agriculture receive subsidies to provide jobs? Should the U.S. rely on tariffs to regulate imports? Should the U.S. limit goods imported from other nations? Answer these questions and include other points that express your views.
- Imagine that a major manufacturing industry in your town causes a local controversy by announcing it is relocating to another country to reduce labor costs. Write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper expressing your thoughts.

2) Plan a meal that uses mostly foods imported from other countries. Browsing in the international section of a large grocery store will provide inspiration. Prepare this meal for your family.

3) Write and illustrate a children's book that explains how an everyday item is made (including the necessary raw materials), transported, stored, sold, and finally ends up in a child's possession (such as a bicycle for a birthday present, or a pair of shoes). Create a cover and at least 20 pages.

## Unit 9 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- Think about a business that you could start. Make a detailed business plan. Determine how many people you would need to hire (if any), and what their responsibilities and pay level would be. Determine what you would need to purchase or rent to run your business (a car, signs, office space, etc.). Make an educated estimate of the amount of capital required to start your business. List ways that you could market your business. Write a mission statement for your proposed business (see Lesson 43).
- Write a short story about a small or large business.

2) Design a full-page magazine ad for one of the companies listed in the chart on page 262. You can design it on a computer or by hand using the medium of your choice (paint, pastels, pencil, colored pencil, marker, ink, chalk, etc.).

3) Design a brochure that features at least ten small, locally-owned, independent (non-chain) restaurants and shops in your area with the purpose of encouraging local residents to patronize them.

## Unit 10 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- What is the value of work for the individual and society? How is work an important part of business and the economy? How can work honor God?
- Write the work/employment biography of one of your parents or grandparents. Do preliminary research by learning the answers to these questions: What jobs have they held? What did they earn at those jobs? Were they satisfied with their pay? Did they feel employers and managers treated them fairly? Why did they move from one job to the next? Were they ever unemployed?

2) Make a mini-documentary (three to five minutes) that champions the value of labor.

3) Design a board game with a theme of labor. Include various types of work, training for specific jobs, wages, unions, and unemployment as elements of the game. Create and play the game with your family.

## Unit 11 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- How do you feel that the government should or should not be involved in providing public goods as described in Lesson 52: security, infrastructure, education, and health care?
- Suppose you are a member of your county's governing body. You've been asked to deliver a report and recommendation at the next meeting regarding the proposal of a large chemical company. The company wants to build a plant in your county which will bring hundreds of jobs to the area. They are asking that the county build a road from the proposed site to the nearest highway. They are asking for an exemption on property taxes for ten years. The local community is concerned about safety for the environment and potential employees. Write your report, responding to the proposal and all related issues.

2) What is a business, product, or service that you think needs to be less regulated or more regulated by the government? Design an attractive flier that succinctly explains your views.

3) Write and perform a skit that creatively explains taxes: who pays them, who gets the money, and what the money is used for. Recruit siblings or friends to perform with you.

## Unit 12 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- Should a Christian pursue wealth? Do you think that a wealthy, luxurious lifestyle is acceptable for a Christian? What is the Biblical perspective on material goods?
- Why do you think people tend to look upon the wealthy with suspicion and distrust? What are ways that wealthy people in the history of our country have helped others increase wealth and quality of life?

2) Work with one of your parents to determine what your household spent during the last full month in the categories shown in the Consumer Price Index pie chart on page 357. With this information, create a pie chart that reflects your household's spending.

3) Research to find out the top three products produced by each of the top ten nations ranked by Gross Domestic Product as shown on pages 352-353. Make a photo essay creatively conveying this information.

## Unit 13 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- What do you think America's top five energy priorities should be? What are the economic implications of these priorities? What can be accomplished by the government and what by the private sector? (see Lesson 63)
- With your parents' permission, survey at least five adults, preferably of different ages, about their experiences and thoughts on the health care system in the United States. Ask: 1. How well do you feel that the health care system in the United States has served you? 2. Do you feel that health care comes at a reasonable price? 3. How would you change our health care system? Write an article about your findings.

2) Create a large painting (at least 11"x14") that reflects the many different types of energy in use in the United States (see Lesson 63).

3) Working with your parents to arrange details, make a mini-documentary (three to five minutes) about the work of someone who serves the housing industry, such as a real estate agent, mortgage broker, contractor, or government employee.

## Unit 14 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- How could America do a better job of providing a quality food supply for its people? How could the negative environmental and health impacts of modern agriculture be reduced? How should government, large business, small business, and consumers be involved in the process?
- Write a short story set in the Great Depression or the Great Recession (see Lessons 69 and 70).

2) Plan a meal that celebrates U.S. agricultural productivity. Use recipes that reflect specific parts of the country. Find out where the main foods used in the meal were grown. Create a menu for the meal that gives this information. Prepare this meal for your family.

3) What is one concern you have about a negative environmental impact? Create a full-page magazine advertisement that encourages personal responsibility in this area. You can design it on a computer or by hand using the medium of your choice (paint, pastels, pencil, colored pencil, marker, ink, chalk, etc.).

## Unit 15 Project Ideas

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- What does it mean to seek first the kingdom of God?
- Write an article directed at teenage Christians about our moral responsibilities regarding money.

2) If you were choosing right now, what would you choose as your career? Make a commercial about one minute long recruiting for that career. Include ways that particular career benefits society and individuals.

3) Make a poster with the title, “One Person Can Make a Difference.” Include at least ten pictures or photos of individuals you know and/or from history. Represent in words and/or pictures the way or ways each person has made a difference. Use the medium of your choice (paint, pastels, pencil, colored pencil, marker, ink, chalk, collage, etc.).