



LESSON Overview

Title: The Cost of Living

Grade Level

7-8

Subject

Math

Lesson Type

Individual/Group
Activity

Skill(s) Developed

Logic and Reasoning
Number Sense
Team Work

Duration



Topic: What are Human needs?

Learning Goals :

By the end of this lesson, learners will understand the difference between a human need and a human want. What are the cost of those needs? Learners will also be able to make the connection between low income and at risk homelessness. Learners will complete and analyze a budget using a low income figure and reflect on poverty as a cause of homelessness.

Materials Needed:

- Pencils
- SBP Need or Want? activity worksheet (included)
- SBP Pay Day activity worksheet (included)
- SBP Emergency Funds activity worksheet (included)

Pre-Requisites

- Introduction to Homelessness
- Introduction to Homelessness 2
- Introduction to The Shoebox Project (recommended)



The Cost of Living Lesson Plan : Gr. 7-8

OBJECTIVE

Understand the value of our basic needs.

PREPARATION

To prepare yourself and the learners for the lesson, instructor should review the **Teacher's glossary** at the end of this lesson for definitions/explanations related to: human needs, food insecurity, low income, poverty and its connection to homelessness . Instructor should review all activities and discussion questions prior to beginning the lesson.

ACTIVITIES

Activity1: Need or Want?

Activity 2: Pay Day!

Activity 3: Emergency Funds

RESOURCES

LESSON OUTLINE

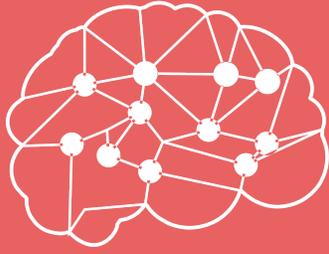
1 Begin this lesson by asking the learners the following questions: What are the things that we need as humans to survive? What is a human need? Make note of learners response on chart paper. After initial discussion complete **Activity 1 : Need or Want?** to help learners understand the difference between needs and wants. Once finished assign **Activity 2: Pay Day!** followed by **Activity 3: Emergency Funds** These are individual activities that will introduce learners to budgeting using logic, reasoning and number sense.

EVALUATION

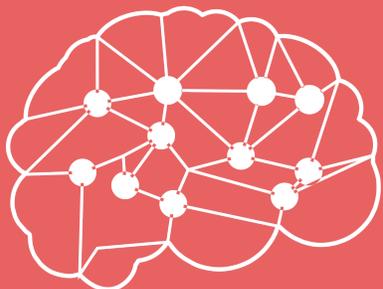
By the end of this lesson , learners will be able to understand the effects of poverty and its connection to at risk homelessness and our basic human needs of survival.

Evaluation Rubric(s): Logical Reasoning Skills





Activity



Title: Need or Want?

Grade Level

Gr.7-8

Subject

Math

Lesson Type

Class

Skill(s) Category

**Problem Solving
Classifying**

Duration



Topic: The Cost of Living

Materials Needed:

- SBP Need or Want activity worksheet

Instructions :

1. Using the Needs or Wants venn diagram below, learners will sort each item in the appropriate category.
2. Instructor will follow up the activity with the discussion questions below.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the most important human needs ? Why?
2. Brainstorm where we can go to fulfill these needs
3. What is poverty?
4. Research the difference between minimum wage and a livable wage then discuss what you found.
5. How can poverty lead to homelessness?

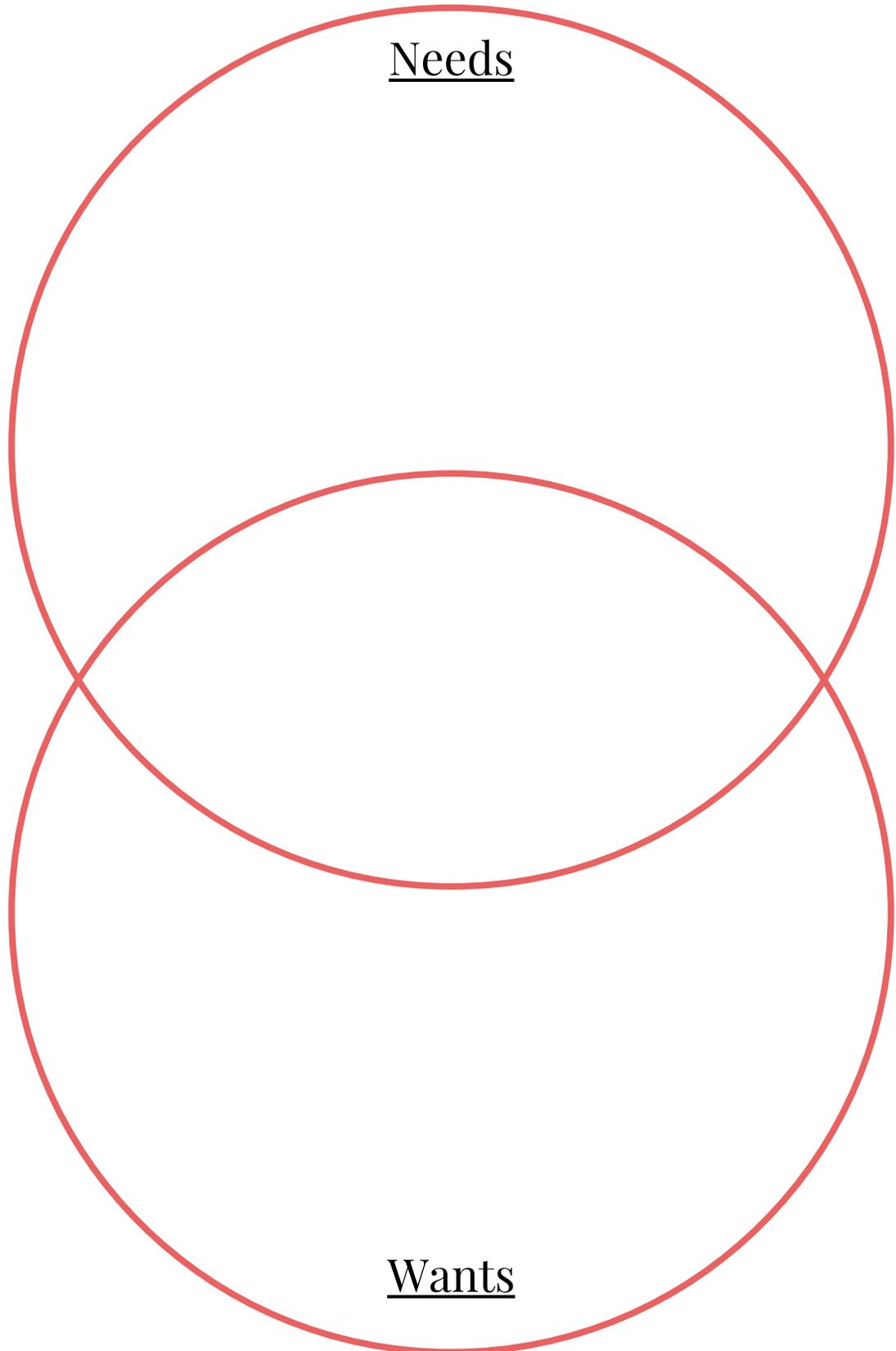


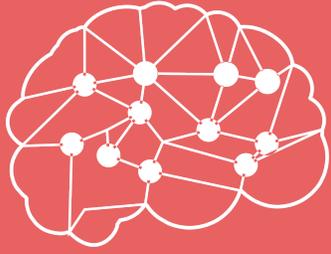
Need or Want?



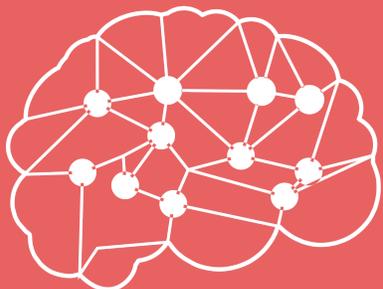
Instructions: Sort the items below in the venn diagram as a human need or want, then discuss your answers as a class.

- Money
- Water
- TV
- Jacket
- Ipad
- Toilet paper
- Shoes
- Cell phone
- Shelter
- Car
- Books
- Furniture
- Doctor
- Sunscreen
- Privacy
- Sunglasses
- Backpack
- Spoon and fork
- Computer
- Heat
- Love
- Respect
- Job





Activity



Title: Pay Day!

Grade Level

7-8

Lesson Type

Individual Activity

Duration



Subject

Math

Skill(s) Category

Number Sense

Problem Solving

Topic: The Cost of Living

Materials Needed:

- Pencils
- Scrap Paper
- SBP Pay Day activity worksheet

Instructions :

- 1 Begin the activity by explaining to the learners that our monthly income should be enough to pay for the things you need. ie. food, shelter, healthcare, safety.
- 2 Ask the learners discussion question 1 and 2.
- 3 Learners will complete the 'Pay Day' activity worksheet to determine if they can balance their wants and needs within their monthly budget.
- 4 Following the activity , ask learners discussion question 3
- 5 Evaluation Rubric(s): Logical Reasoning Skills

Discussion Questions:

1. What is income inequality ?
2. What is a budget?
3. What

Pay Day



Instructions: The 50/30/20 rule popularized by Elizabeth Warren states that you should split your after-tax income into three categories of spending: 50% on needs, 30% on wants, and 20% on savings. If you were spend 30% of your income on housing, use the budget chart below to balance your wants and needs with your monthly income.

Name:	My Monthly Income:	\$2650
-------	--------------------	--------

Needs	Cost
Rent	\$1,200
Gas /Electric/Water	\$200
Internet	
Transportation	\$200
Clothes	
Food	

Wants	Cost
Phone	
Eating out	
Entertainment	
Games	
Savings	
Total Cost	

Pay Day

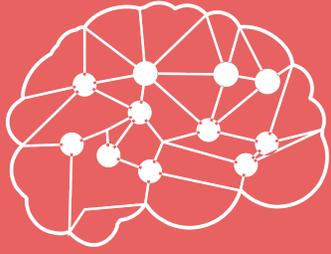


1. Were you able to save any money ? If so, how much?

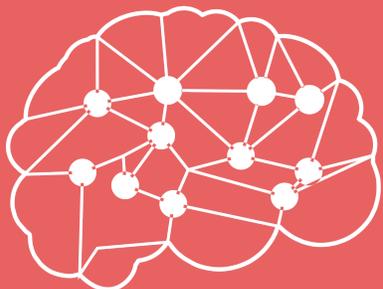
2. What percentage of your income is spent on Food? Clothes? Entertainment?

3. Did you have any challenges balancing your budget with your wants and needs?

Bonus: To be considered "affordable housing", you should not spend more than 30% of your monthly income on your rent. Calculate the % of your income that is spent on housing to determine if it is affordable. What does this suggest about the housing market?



Activity



Title: Emergency Funds

Grade Level

7-8

Subject

Math

Lesson Type

Individual Activity

Skill(s) Category:

Reasoning

Number Sense

Problem Solving

Duration



Topic: The Cost of Living

Materials Needed:

- Pencils
- Scrap Paper
- Calculator (optional)
- SBP Emergency Funds activity worksheet

Instructions :

1. Begin this activity with discussion questions 1 and 2.
2. Read the SBP Emergency Funds scenarios and solve the problems individually, followed by discussion question 3
3. Evaluation Rubric(s): Logical Reasoning Skills

Discussion Questions:

1. What is an 'emergency' fund?
2. Why is it important to have one?
3. What are some ways that you can save for an 'emergency'?



Emergency Funds



An "emergency" fund is used to cover your basic needs in case of a job loss or unexpected costs arise (eg. separation from a partner, house repairs, car repairs, or medical issues). This type of fund could be used to avoid homelessness in the face of unexpected expenses.

Instructions: Calculate your total emergency funds available at the end of the month. Circle the + or - symbols to show if you are gaining or losing funds.

How much money do you have now?

1

Every week you receive \$20 allowance. You have been saving your allowance for the past 8 weeks.

\$

+/-

2

You bought a new game for your game system that cost \$45

\$

+/-

3

You mowed two of your neighbours lawn and they each gave you \$20

\$

+/-

4

You paid your sibling \$5 to wash the dishes for you tomorrow.

\$

+/-

5

Your birthday is coming up next week and your aunt sent you \$150 in a card as an early birthday surprise!

\$

+/-

Total Emergency Fund:

\$

Bonus : If you saved \$235 every month for the next 8 months, how much money would you have in your emergency fund?

\$



GLOSSARY



Grade Level

Gr.7-8

Lesson Title

The Cost of Living

Subject

Math

Description

The glossary section provides definitions and explanations for the lesson.

DEFINITIONS

Human Need vs. Want

A need is something necessary to live and function. A want is something that can improve your quality of life. Using these criteria, a need includes food, clothing, shelter and medical care, while wants include everything else. However, these terms are more fluid than they appear to be at first glance, and some items can seem to fit into both categories. A good trick for dividing wants and needs is to let some time pass before fulfilling your desire for the item. The desire for a need grows stronger with time, while the desire for a want will weaken with passing time.

Low income/ Poverty

A household is considered "officially" low income if its income is below 50% of median household incomes. Poverty is often assessed by measuring the number of Canadians with low incomes.

How Does Low income/poverty relate to homelessness?

Homelessness and poverty are inextricably linked. Poverty and low incomes often prevent people from finding or keeping their housing. Or, if they are spending all of their money on housing, other basic needs may have to be sacrificed. [Click here for more information.](#)

Minimum wage vs. Livable Wage

The minimum wage is the same across the province. Living wage reflects what people need to earn to cover the actual costs of living in their community. [Click here for more information.](#)

Income Inequality

Income inequality is the extent to which income is distributed unevenly in a country. It is how unevenly income is distributed throughout a population. [Click here for more information.](#)

Budget

A budget is a plan for managing your money. It's created based on an estimation of your income and expenses for a set period of time

LESSON RESOURCES

1. **Teacher's Guide**- The teachers's guide provides an introduction to The Shoebox Project lessons. This includes information about The Shoebox Project, why it matters and the learning objectives for these lesson plans. Please [click here](#) for details.
2. Evaluation rubrics- [Click here](#) to download