

lesson four

comparison shopping



teacher's guide



WWW. web sites about comparison shopping

The Internet is probably the most extensive and dynamic source of information in our society. The following Web sites can provide students and others with current information, assistance, and data related to this lesson. Web addresses ending in “.com” are commercial; “.org” are nonprofit; and “.gov” are government.

Springboard: Credit Education	www.ncfe.org
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The Internet's #1 site for K-8 Teachers and Kids	www.funbrain.com
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Note: Addresses and content of Web sites change, and new sites are created daily. Use search engines such as Yahoo, AltaVista, Infoseek, Lycos, or Hotbot, to update and locate Web sites related to this topic.

comparison shopping lesson outline

lesson 4 overview

This lesson introduces students to the concepts associated with comparison shopping and choosing the best option. The activities in this lesson will introduce students to the difference between needs versus wants. Students will also learn to scrutinize advertising to discover messages that may affect their decisions.

Armed with these skills, students will be better consumers. They will develop healthy spending habits and learn to avoid spending traps.

lesson 4 goals

Recognize the need to conduct research before making a purchase decision.

lesson 4 objectives

- Understand how to carefully consider alternatives before making a purchase.

lesson 4 activities

4-1 Needs and Wants

- Help students recognize the difference between needs and wants.

4-2 Comparison Buying

Related Worksheet: Comparison Shopping

- Apply math skills to compare possible alternatives for one purchase decision.
- Help students apply this knowledge to real purchase selections.

4-3 Advertisement Comparison

- Help students analyze newspaper advertisements.
- Ask students to list television advertisements.
- Discuss the pros and cons of each advertisement.

4-4 Lesson Four Quiz - Answer Key

comparison shopping teaching notes

needs and wants

This activity will help students learn the difference between essentials and items they desire

- Ask students to list items they plan to buy during the next week or month.
- Put the list on the board.
- Ask students which items on the list are essential (needs) and which they desire but could live without (wants).
 - Explain that this is the difference between needs and wants.
 - Discuss that a need for one person may be only a want for another person. Lists will vary for everyone.
- Ask students to make their own lists of needs and wants. (Optional: Provide a ready-made list of items children in this age group buy. Have the students arrange the items into two lists: needs and wants.)

discussion



comparison buying

This activity encourages students to consider several alternatives before making a selection.

- Compare the costs of items students purchase on a regular basis.
- Create a chart to compare soft drinks.
- Have the students calculate the unit price for each alternative.
- Discuss the different choices.
 - Ask them which selection they would make and why.
 - Remind them that there are no right or wrong answers.
 - Encourage them to think about the differences in relation to money expenditures.
- Repeat this activity using clothes (example: a pair of jeans or shoes).

student activity 4-2



comparison shopping teaching notes

advertisement analysis

Students are encouraged to think about advertisements and what they mean.

Option A: Bring several newspaper advertisements and advertisement supplements to class.

- Ask each student to find and analyze one ad.
- Have students with similar products compare their ads.
- Discuss how students can use advertisements to comparison-shop and find the best price for items they plan to purchase.

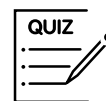
Option B: Ask students to watch television advertisements during their favorite evening programs.

- Have students report on the advertisements:
 - Length of the advertisement
 - Item promoted
 - Facts presented (price, color, size, etc.)
 - Other messages presented (opinions, some thing the product will do for you, etc.)
- Discuss the messages being conveyed with the television advertising.
 - Help students sort truth from subtle messages.
- Discuss how advertisements affect the way students spend money.
 - Consider whether the product will be worth the cost.

discussion



lesson four quiz



quiz 4-4 | key