



**Economics
Arkansas**
EDUCATION FOR REAL LIFE



Bartering to Harmonize

By Jennifer Taunton, Master Economics Teacher
Springdale School District

Lesson Description

Students will barter to collect all of the materials needed to produce a harmonica. This is a great beginning of the year activity. Harmonicas can be kept all year and used to celebrate different events throughout the school year.

Grades 1

Concepts

- **Barter:** Trading a good or service directly for another good or service, without using money or credit.

Standards

Arkansas Economics Standards

- E.1.1.6 Classify exchanges consumers make as monetary or bartering.

Arkansas English Language Arts Standards

- 1.RC.2.RF: Answer questions about key details in a text.
- 1.V.1: Determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases in texts read aloud.
- 1.CC.1.OL: Participate in collaborative conversations, following class created discussion guidelines.

Objectives

- Students will be able to barter in order to complete a harmonica.

Time required

45 minutes

Materials required

- Lunch Sacks (one per student)
- 2 larger crafts sticks (tongue depressors) per student
- 2 card stock strips (2cm X 8cm) per student (These will be the sliders.)
- Tape
- Long, wide rubber band (size 64, ¼” X 3½” or similar)
- Sandwich size zip top bags
- The Magic School Bus in the Haunted House (book or video)

Teacher Preparation

- Cut the card stock strips.
- Using the lunch sacks, divide the materials in such a way that most (or all) of the students will have to trade to produce their harmonicas.
- Acquire The Magic School Bus in the Haunted House (either the book or the video) Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pw8tv22p_wI
- Write each student’s name with permanent marker on a sandwich size zip top bag.

Procedure

1. Show all (or part) of The Magic School Bus in the Haunted House video or read the book. Discuss the appropriate science of sound concepts with your students. Tell the students that they will be producing their very own harmonicas in class today.
2. Display Visual 1. Distribute the lunch sacks.
3. Ask the students to begin assembling their harmonicas. Indicate that you will be happy to help anyone who needs help. Hopefully, at this point, students will notice that they are missing pieces they need for production.
4. Allow the students time to discover the problem. Ask the students what the problem is. (*We don’t have everything we need.*) Ask the students how they could solve their problem. (*trading or bartering*)
5. Ask the students if they have ever bartered for anything before. What has to happen for two people to barter? (*each wants something the other has*) Tell the students that this is called a double coincidence of wants.
6. Ask what might happen if no one has what you want. (*You may have to trade for something that you don’t want to get what the person wants to trade for what you really want.*)
7. Direct them to keep track of the number of trades they have to make in order to get all of the harmonica parts. Allow the students to begin trading.

8. When everyone has all of the parts for their harmonicas, have the students report the number of trades it took to get all of the parts they needed to complete the harmonicas. Record this information on the board.
9. If you took it down, display Visual 1 again. Allow students to assemble their harmonicas.
10. When everyone has finished their harmonicas, have the students blow between the craft sticks and the two sliders. What happens if they move the sliders? If they blow harder or softer?
11. Distribute the sandwich bags. Tell the students that they'll be using the harmonicas to celebrate special events and achievements at school and the bags are for them to store their harmonicas.

Closure/Assessment

Have the students describe a time when they had to barter to get something they wanted. This could be a writing assignment or a class discussion.

Producing Your Harmonica

Materials Needed:

- 2 Large Craft Sticks
- 2 Paper Strips (Sliders)
- Tape
- Long, wide rubber bands

Directions:

1. Stack the craft sticks one on top of the other.
2. Wrap the 2 cardstock strips around the stack of 2 craft sticks securing the ends with tape.
3. Remove one of the sticks and set it aside.
4. Stretch the rubber band lengthwise around the craft stick and sliders.
5. Place the rubber banded stick on top of the craft stick you set aside in step 3.
6. Tape the ends of the craft sticks together.

