



COMPETITION/CAPITALISM (4-6)

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to define and explain capitalism. Students will understand how SPB engages with the capitalist system.

STANDARDS:

- **AS.E2** By applying economic reasoning, individuals seek to understand the decisions of people, groups, and societies.
- **AS.E4** The domestic economy is shaped by interactions between government, institutions, and the private sector.

CIVICS EXAM QUESTION:

- What is the economic system in the United States? A: Capitalist or market economy

TIMELINE: This lesson best fits before beginning to put together project proposals.

APPROXIMATE LESSON LENGTH: 55 mins and time for getting in touch with vendors

SUPPORTING MATERIAL:

- [Capitalism/Cooperation Reading and Reflection K-6](#)

VOCABULARY:

- **Capitalism:** (noun) An economic system where private individuals own and control property and prices are determined by supply and demand.
- **Inequality:** (noun) A state of not being equal, especially in regards to opportunities, resources, or treatment.
- **Cooperate:** (verb) To work together with others towards a common goal or purpose.
- **Competition:** (noun) The act or process of trying to win or gain something by defeating or establishing superiority over others.
- **Company:** A group of people who work together to make or sell things. For example, LEGO is a company that makes and sells toy bricks.
- **Vendor:** Someone who sells things. For example, the person who sells ice cream from a truck or the people who sell toys at a fair are vendors.
- **Quote:** Piece of paper or message that tells you how much something will cost.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Engage

- Students will pick a product they are interested in (shoes, game, etc.), and look up the cost on 3 different websites. Students will share their findings.
- Discuss why price differences were/were not found on products.
- After collecting ideas for projects from the community, have students create a list of possible projects to meet student wants/needs as expressed through the survey.
- Discuss with students that once a product or solution has been selected, they will need to
 - Figure out what needs to be purchased
 - Price compare – just as they do when shopping for products they are interested in.

2. Explore

- Students will read the *Capitalism/Cooperation* Reading and answer the questions on page 1-2.

3. Explain

- Working in small groups, students discuss questions on page 3-4.

4. Elaborate

- Begin Project Proposal stage by searching for school approved vendors for each proposed project.
 - This process will vary by site/district guidelines
 - A list of school approved vendors organized by project is ideal for this age group

5. Evaluate

- Discuss the similarities/differences between this project proposal process and the real-world market economy (ex: preferred vendors, contracts, costs).

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT OR ARTIFACT:

- **Artifact:** Students will track learning and thinking on this worksheet.
- **Assessment:** Students will be able to answer the question on capitalism on the Arizona civics exam.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

- List three factors that a company might consider when determining the price for a quote.

Discussion Prep: Read & Take Notes

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the passage below. Take notes as you read and prepare for the discussion questions.

Capitalism is an economic system where people can own and control things like factories and land. In capitalism, people try to make a profit by selling things or providing services. One important part of capitalism is competition. Competition happens when different companies try to sell the same thing and they have to work hard to get customers. Competition is good because it can make prices lower and the quality of things better. When companies have to compete, they have to make good products and charge fair prices to get customers. This helps keep companies from being greedy and it helps customers get the best products for the best prices.

Competition has always been a part of human history. In the past, people used to compete for things like land and power. But now, competition happens in the marketplace. The marketplace is where people buy and sell things. When companies compete, they have to make better products and sell them for lower prices to get customers. This is good for customers because they can choose the best products for the best prices. Competition also helps companies because it makes them work harder to be successful. When companies have to compete, they have to be creative and come up with new ideas. This can lead to more innovation and better products for everyone.

Competition is an important part of capitalism because it helps keep things fair and it helps people get the best products for the best prices. When companies have to compete, they have to work hard to make good products and charge fair prices. This is good for customers because they can choose the best products for them. Competition also helps companies because it makes them work hard and be creative. This can lead to more innovation and better products for everyone. So, competition is an important part of capitalism and it helps make our economy strong.

1. How does competition affect your everyday life?

2. Can you think of any examples of competition that you have seen or experienced?

3. Why do you think competition is important in our economy?

Reflect and Discuss

INSTRUCTIONS: Respond to the following question using the reading and your own knowledge and experiences. Be as thorough as possible.

1. How does competition affect your everyday life?

WRITE YOUR RESPONSE HERE. Be sure to use what you learned in the reading and your own knowledge and experiences to answer the question thoroughly.

INSTRUCTIONS: When instructed, you will share your responses with your group. Take notes on their responses in the boxes below. Be sure to write their names at the top of each box.

Student #1 _____

Student #2 _____

Student #3 _____

Student #4 _____

Reflect and Discuss

INSTRUCTIONS: Respond to the following question using the reading and your own knowledge and experiences. Be as thorough as possible.

2. Can you think of any examples of competition that you have seen or experienced?

WRITE YOUR RESPONSE HERE. Be sure to use what you learned in the reading and your own knowledge and experiences to answer the question thoroughly.

INSTRUCTIONS: When instructed, you will share your responses with your group. Take notes on their responses in the boxes below. Be sure to write their names at the top of each box.

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Student #3 _____

Student #4 _____

Reflect and Discuss

INSTRUCTIONS: Respond to the following question using the reading and your own knowledge and experiences. Be as thorough as possible.

3. Why do you think competition is important in our economy?

WRITE YOUR RESPONSE HERE. Be sure to use what you learned in the reading and your own knowledge and experiences to answer the question thoroughly.

INSTRUCTIONS: When instructed, you will share your responses with your group. Take notes on their responses in the boxes below. Be sure to write their names at the top of each box.

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