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Grade: 3rd
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School Division: Fairfax County



PRODUCERS

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Definition/Background

People who make goods and provide services are called producers. Producers use productive resources (natural, human and capital resources) to make goods and provide services. Because productive resources are limited, producers must choose which goods and services to produce. Producers respond to signals in the market. If demand for televisions rises, television manufacturers generally will respond by producing more televisions. In a market economy, producers compete against each other by offering higher quality or lower prices.

Teaching Ideas

1. Play "Producer Pictionary" by writing the names of producers on slips of paper and placing them in a bag. Divide the class into two teams. The first team picks a person to come up and pull a slip out of the bag and draws what it says on the board. Either team may guess what producer is being drawn and state whether they produce a good or a service. The one to guess correctly gets a point for their team and comes up to draw the next producer.
2. Instruct students to write a personal narrative about something they produce at home. (Examples: make a sandwich, clean room, set table, do homework) Remind them this will be a personal narrative because they are telling the story. Students should remember to mention different types of resources and intermediate goods used.
3. Make a class list entitled "Producers of the Future." Allow the students to choose one to illustrate. This producer of the future should be in his/her workplace, wearing suitable clothing, and using appropriate tools and resources.
4. Ask the students what Confucius, the Chinese philosopher, may have meant by this statement, "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life."

Lessons & Resources

Print Lessons

Master Curriculum Guides in Economics: K-2, Lesson 8: Producer Charades (elementary)

Spotting Economics: From Africa to Ice Cream, Lesson 3 Working in a Dot Factory (elementary)

Online Lessons

Dacian Masks (elementary)

http://www.ncee.net/ei/lessons/resourcesAtoZ/1-56183-618-4_05.pdf

Dry as a Bone (middle)

<http://www.econedlink.org/lessons/index.cfm?lesson=EM536&page=teacher>

Not Your Grandma's Lemonade Stand (middle)

<http://www.econedlink.org/lessons/index.cfm?lesson=EM276&page=teacher>

Fed Resources

My Money (elementary)

http://www.richmondfed.org/publications/education/my_money/index.cfm

Literature

- **The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza** by Philemon Sturges. Dutton Children's Books, 1999. In this updated tale, the duck, the dog, and the cat initially refuse to help produce the pizza but eventually participate in the process. [Grade K-4]
- **Sweet Potato Pie** by Kathleen D. Lindsey. Lee & Low Books, 2003. In order to pay the mortgage an entire family makes and sells sweet potato pies. In the process they save their property from foreclosure and create a lucrative family business. [Grades K-4]
- **The Toothpaste Millionaire** by Jean Merrill. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. Sixth-grader Rufus Mayflower and his friends become producers when he creates and markets cheaper and better toothpaste. [Grades 3-6]

VIRGINIA COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC EDUCATION

VCEE is a nonprofit organization providing Virginia's K-12 teachers with professional development, quality curriculum and other resources to promote economic and financial education. Visit www.vcee.org or contact VCEE or one of its affiliated centers for economic education to learn about specific opportunities.

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For more resources on teaching economics and the Federal Reserve System go to www.richmondfed.org/educational_info. Among these free and easy to use resources you'll find lesson plans, workshop information and publications.

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