

Classroom Activity: The \$20 Challenge

Grade Level: 3–6

Time: 25–30 minutes

Objective: Students will learn how to make smart spending and saving decisions using a fixed amount of money.

Materials Needed:

- Paper or worksheet
- Pencil
- Whiteboard (optional)

Activity Instructions:

Step 1: Introduction (5 minutes)

Tell students they have \$20 to spend. Ask: 'What would you do with \$20?'

Step 2: Set the Challenge (5 minutes)

Students must divide their \$20 into categories: Saving, Spending (fun), Needs, and Giving.

Step 3: Student Work (10 minutes)

Students write how much money they will put into each category and explain their choices.

Step 4: Share & Discuss (5–10 minutes)

Students share their decisions. Discuss differences and reasoning.

Reflection Questions:

- Was it hard to decide how to use your money?
- What did you choose to save?
- What would you do differently next time?

Extension Activity:

Introduce an unexpected expense (e.g., broken headphones). Students must adjust their plan.

Closing:

Explain that making a plan helps people make better money decisions.