Lesson Plan

Macroeconomics

20 minutes (+ 30-minute optional extension)

Prerequisite: Digital lesson–Macroeconomics

INSTRUCTIONS

Each digital lesson is supplemented with a follow-up synchronous lesson plan to extend and reinforce learning. Activities and questions are structured in a way that supports both in-person and virtual classroom settings.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to…

- describe how the economy impacts individuals and businesses.
- evaluate the health of the economy using economic indicators.
- analyze how the government and Central Bank use economic policy to regulate the business cycle.
- predict how individuals and businesses will behave in a growing or declining economy.

MATERIALS

In-Person Lesson

- Employment Scenario student activity—1 per group or individual
- Optional extension student activity

Virtual Lesson

- Electronic or printed Employment Scenario student activity—1 per group or individual
- Optional extension student activity

STANDARDS ADDRESSED

2021 Jump$tart National Standards for Personal Finance

- Earning Income 12-5a. Discuss how economic and labor market conditions can affect income, career opportunities, and employment status.
- Investing 12-4a. Describe the impact of inflation on prices over time.
- Investing 12-5c. Discuss how economic downturns that result in high unemployment can affect the prices of financial assets.
- Investing 12-12a. Explain the role of federal regulators in financial markets.

CEE Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics

- Standard 11: Money and Inflation
- Standard 15: Economic Growth
- Standard 18: Economic Fluctuations

- Standard 19: Unemployment and Inflation
- Standard 20: Fiscal and Monetary Policy

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	FORMAT	DURATION
Discussion	Ask students: *"What happens to pricing during a declining economy with high unemployment rates?"* Possible Answers: • People are saving more and spending less money—this could cause companies to lose money, which would impact their stock values. • If people are unable to pay their mortgage or rent, the value of properties can go down. • Investors can buy assets at lower prices and may be able to benefit from those when the economy improves.	**Virtual:** Students enter responses into chat or answer verbally one at a time. **In-Person:** Group discussion	3 mins
Activity	Pair students or divide them into groups. Distribute one of the three **Employment Scenario** student activities to each pair/group. Ask students to work together to answer the questions for their scenario. Review each of the three scenarios and answers as a class. Possible answers: **Scenario 1:** Hannah's job could be at risk because the company might reduce its workforce. Hannah might not have a steady income anymore. It could be harder for Hannah to find a new job during a recession, so her income might be lower or uncertain. There could be fewer job openings in the same industry. It could be harder to find a new job or move up in her career because there are fewer opportunities and there's more competition. **Scenario 2:** More businesses are doing well and growing, so there are more job opportunities. Caleb might be able to find a job that pays well. If there is high demand for workers in an industry he's interested in, Caleb might have more options to choose from for his career. During a declining economy or a recession, businesses might not hire as many new employees. This might make it harder for Caleb to find a job, especially in the field he wants to work in. **Scenario 3:** In a growing economy, businesses might invest more in things like design, which can create more work for Jaimie. In a declining economy, businesses might spend less on design,	**Work** in pairs or small groups.	10 mins

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	FORMAT	DURATION
	which means Jaimie might have less work and a less stable income. If there is more competition among freelancers, it could be more difficult for Jaimie to find jobs. But if there is higher demand for freelancers, Jaimie might have more job opportunities. During a declining economy or a recession, businesses might cut back on spending, including hiring freelancers. This might make it harder for Jaimie to find clients and get work.		
Exit Ticket	Students can respond to this question on their student activity worksheet: *Based on what you've learned about growing and declining economies, how would you describe the current state of the economy? Why?*	**Student Activity**	2 mins
Optional Extension Activity	Students explore the role of the government in financial markets. Students practice identifying the role and services of U.S. agencies. Students complete the Role of Government student activity. Students can complete this activity independently in class or at home. Review answers together as a class.	**Individual Student Activity** and **Formalize learning** with the whole group.	30 mins