

# *JA Finance Park*<sup>®</sup>

*JA Finance Park* introduces students to personal financial planning and career exploration. It is designed to be taught to middle grades students by classroom teachers. At the culmination of this program, students visit *JA Finance Park*<sup>™</sup> to put into practice what they've learned about economic options and the principles of budgeting. Assisted by their teachers and a staff of trained volunteers, they have the opportunity to actually develop and commit to a personal budget.

*JA Finance Park* is a six-week economics education program designed to:

- Help students think creatively, analyze tasks, and solve problems
- Encourage students to develop and demonstrate personal responsibility for learning and self-management
- Actively involve the business community and parents in helping students attain their goals
- Communicate and work with schools to promote the highest level of student achievement
- Help students develop and follow a monthly budget

Description	<i>JA Finance Park</i> Key Learning Objectives	Social Studies 1998	English- Language Arts 1997	Mathematics 1997	Career Technical Education 2005
<p><b>Unit One:</b> <b>Financial Institutions</b> Students recognize the role of financial institutions and the various services they provide</p>	<p><b>Objectives:</b> The students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify services provided by financial institutions</li> <li>▪ Explain debit cards and their use</li> <li>▪ Explain the advantages and disadvantages of using credit</li> <li>▪ Evaluate the risks and benefits of saving and investing</li> <li>▪ Identify the impact interest rates have on investment value</li> <li>▪ Read stock quotations and determine stock value</li> </ul> <p><b>Concepts:</b> benefit, credit, investment, opportunity cost, risk</p> <p><b>Skills:</b> active listening, brainstorming, comparing, critical thinking, decision-making, following directions, math computation, reading, teamwork, writing</p>		<p><i>Grade 6</i> R 1.0, 2.0 W 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0, 2.0</p> <p><i>Grade 7</i> R 1.0, 2.0 W 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0, 2.0</p> <p><i>Grade 8</i> R 1.0, 2.0 W 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0, 2.0</p>	<p><i>Grade 6</i> NS 1.0 NS 2.0 A 1.0 A 2.0 MR 1.0 MR 2.0 MR 3.0</p> <p><i>Grade 7</i> NS 1.0 MR 1.0 MR 2.0</p>	<p><i>Finance/Business Industry Sector</i></p> <p>1.1 2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4 5.0 7.0 9.5 11.0</p>
<p><b>Unit Two:</b> <b>Taxes and My Salary</b> Students explore what taxes are, why they are important, what they are used for, and how they affect income and expenses</p>	<p><b>Objectives:</b> The students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Define taxes and explain their purpose</li> <li>▪ Distinguish the differences among sales, income, and property taxes, and the purpose for each</li> <li>▪ Identify ways taxes affect everyone</li> <li>▪ Identify the basic principles of Social Security</li> <li>▪ Determine net monthly income</li> </ul> <p><b>Concepts:</b> government, income, salary, taxes, wages</p> <p><b>Skills:</b> active listening, brainstorming, charting, comparing, math computation, reading, teamwork</p>		<p><i>Grade 6</i> R 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0</p> <p><i>Grade 7</i> R 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0</p> <p><i>Grade 8</i> R 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0</p>	<p><i>Grade 6</i> NS 1.0 NS 2.0 A 1.0 A 2.0 MR 1.0 MR 2.0 MR 3.0</p> <p><i>Grade 7</i> NS 1.0 MR 1.0 MR 2.0</p>	<p><i>Finance/Business Industry Sector</i></p> <p>1.1 2.1 2.3 2.4 5.0 7.0 9.5 11.0</p>

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<b>Unit Three: Budgeting</b> Students create and evaluate personal budgets	<b>Objectives:</b> The students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Explain who uses a budget and why</li> <li>▪ Identify the components of a successful budget</li> <li>▪ Evaluate the effectiveness of sample budgets</li> <li>▪ Develop spending plans</li> <li>▪ Practice budget decision-making</li> </ul> <b>Concepts:</b> budget, expenses, income, needs, opportunity cost, savings, taxes, wages, wants <b>Skills:</b> active listening, comparing, decision-making, math computation, reading, teamwork		<i>Grade 6</i> R 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0  <i>Grade 7</i> R 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0  <i>Grade 8</i> R 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0	<i>Grade 6</i> NS 1.0 NS 2.0 MR 1.0 MR 2.0 MR 3.0  <i>Grade 7</i> NS 1.0 MR 1.0 MR 2.0	<i>Finance/Business Industry Sector</i> 1.1 2.1 2.3 2.4 5.0 7.0 9.5 11.0
<b>Unit Four: Preparing for Finance Park</b> Students evaluate hypothetical life situations and prioritize budget items in preparation for the JA Finance Park experience	<b>Objectives:</b> The students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create a personal budget</li> <li>▪ Calculate net monthly income</li> <li>▪ Conduct pricing research</li> <li>▪ Assess investments</li> <li>▪ Receive business assignment and account number</li> </ul> <b>Concepts:</b> budget, expenses, income, needs, savings, taxes, wages, wants <b>Skills:</b> active listening, comparing, interpersonal skills, math computation, reading, role-play, teamwork, verbal communication		<i>Grade 6</i> R 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0, 2.0  <i>Grade 7</i> R 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0, 2.0  <i>Grade 8</i> R 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0, 2.0	<i>Grade 6</i> NS 1.0 NS 2.0 A 1.0 A 2.0 MR 1.0 MR 2.0 MR 3.0  <i>Grade 7</i> NS 1.0 MR 1.0 MR 2.0	<i>Finance/Business Industry Sector</i> 1.1 2.1 2.3 2.4 5.0 7.0 9.5 11.0
<b>Unit Five: The Visit</b> Students make spending decisions to maintain a balanced budget while participating in the JA Finance Park experience	<b>Objectives:</b> The students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create a typical family budget using hypothetical life situations</li> <li>▪ Use percentages to calculate minimum and maximum spending allowances</li> <li>▪ Evaluate stock holdings</li> </ul> <b>Concepts:</b> budget, expenses, income, needs, savings, taxes, wages, wants <b>Skills:</b> active listening, critical thinking, interpersonal communication, math computation, role-play, teamwork		<i>Grade 6</i> R 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0  <i>Grade 7</i> R 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0  <i>Grade 8</i> R 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0	<i>Grade 6</i> NS 1.0 NS 2.0 MR 1.0 MR 2.0 MR 3.0  <i>Grade 7</i> NS 1.0 MR 1.0 MR 2.0	<i>Finance/Business Industry Sector</i> 1.1 2.1 2.3 2.4 5.0 7.0 9.5 11.0
<b>Unit Six: After the Visit</b> Students assess their accomplishments from the JA Finance Park experience	<b>Objectives:</b> The students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demonstrate the integration of classroom instruction with the hands-on simulation</li> <li>▪ Perform an assessment of credit and investments</li> <li>▪ Reflect on their visit</li> </ul> <b>Concepts:</b> budget, expenses, income, needs, savings, taxes, wages, wants <b>Skills:</b> active listening, critical thinking, self-reflection		<i>Grade 6</i> R 1.0, 2.0 W 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0  <i>Grade 7</i> R 1.0, 2.0 W 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0  <i>Grade 8</i> R 1.0, 2.0 W 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0		<i>Finance/Business Industry Sector</i> 2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4 5.0 7.0 11.0

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<p><b>Unit Seven:</b> <b>Career Goals</b> Students consider their career goals and what steps they must take to achieve them</p>	<p><b>Objectives:</b> The students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Differentiate among abilities, interests, work preferences, and values</li> <li>▪ Identify their personal characteristics</li> <li>▪ Rate their abilities, interests, and work preferences</li> <li>▪ Identify their career interests</li> <li>▪ Perform career choice research</li> <li>▪ Write a letter of application to a prospective employer</li> </ul> <p><b>Concepts:</b> career, goals, income, values</p> <p><b>Skills:</b> active listening, critical thinking, research writing, self-assessment</p>		<p><i>Grade 6</i> R 1.0, 2.0 W 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0</p> <p><i>Grade 7</i> R 1.0, 2.0 W 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0</p> <p><i>Grade 8</i> R 1.0, 2.0 W 1.0, 2.0 WO 1.0 LS 1.0</p>		<p><i>Finance/Business Industry Sector</i> 2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4 3.0 5.0 7.0 9.5 11.0</p>

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