



Lesson Plans : Math

Cost Comparison  
Grade Level : 3-4  
Activity Type : Math    Activity Size : Large  
Objective :

Class Produce Department

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After touring the produce department of an area supermarket, students will explore money, budgeting, and problem solving activities involving buying and selling fruits and vegetables. Afterwards, they will prepare and taste a variety of fruits and vegetables.

Description :  
Materials:

money  
fresh, canned or dried fruits and vegetables (supplied by local market produce department, food service company, school cafeteria, or students can bring an item from home)  
scales for weighing fruits and vegetables

Introduction:

- Participate in a "5 a Day" Supermarket Tour with a local supermarket in your area.
- Explain to students that after your supermarket tour, they will turn the classroom into a produce department. Have each student bring in one canned, dried or fresh fruit or vegetable to contribute to the store. (Perhaps the market would agree to donate a fresh fruit or vegetable to each student at the end of the store tour, or ask your food service department to participate).
- Plan and have a tasting party with the fruits and vegetables to complete the activity.
- You may want to price the store items to make fractions and decimals easier to work with!

Group Activity:

Following are some ideas to use with small groups in the class store. Add some more ideas to the list...get ideas from students!

- Have group members calculate the cost of a snack for the group. For example:

5 apples  
5 cans pineapple juice  
+ 5 small boxes of raisins  
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- Have students compare prices of fresh, canned, and frozen fruits and vegetables. (Strawberries, Peaches, Peas, Green Beans, Asparagus, Corn, etc.)
- Have students choose the fruits and vegetables from a grocery list as if it is their responsibility to pick them up in the store. Have them calculate the money it will cost if they are shopping for a family of 2, 3, or 4. Compare prices of fresh, canned, frozen and dried fruits and vegetables.
- Have a group calculate the cost of a fruit salad to feed the whole class. Have them choose the fruits to go into the salad based on which fruits are in the class store.
- Have a group calculate the cost for a fruit and/or vegetable snack for the entire class.
- Have a group of buyers who practice giving correct amounts of money for the fruits and vegetables and who must stay within a given budget.
- Have a group of sellers who must provide the buyers with the correct amount of change.
- Have a group of students weigh various numbers of servings of dried fruits. How much more do 6 servings of raisins weigh than 2 servings?

Related Activities:

- Ask the school food service staff to sponsor a monthly tasting party for the students!
- Tour a grocery store in the community to see how they store fruits and vegetables to keep them as fresh as possible.
- Invite a school's food service staff member to the class to discuss his/her job.

Students' Reactions :