

Instructional Unit Title: One of the Certain Things in Life... Taxes

The teacher may facilitate a brainstorming session so that students can connect prior knowledge of supply, demand and production to the influence those factors have on individual consumer choices.



The teacher may provide charts, graphs, and data (e.g., tax allocation data, state budgets, local budgets) so that students can explain why financially responsible individuals pay taxes (e.g., sales, property, income) on goods/earnings in order to provide public services.



The teacher may bring in a guest speaker (e.g., an accountant, financial planner, human resources professional) so that students can explain the ways in which individual taxation responsibilities inform financial decision making (e.g., earnings, financial planning).



PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: You are a tax advisor working for the Pikes Peak Accounting Agency. A new customer, Les Ismore, needs to file his taxes for the first time and has several crucial questions that you need to answer. Les asks the following questions during the dialogue:

- Why do people need to pay taxes?
- What kinds of taxes can I expect to pay as I grow older?
- How do taxes impact my life today and in the future?
- How is my personal financial planning affected by paying taxes?

In addition to answers to the above questions, at least 3 additional questions should be developed and have answers included.



The teacher may engage students in a simulation of filing taxes so that students can experience the process of being a financially responsible citizen by paying taxes.



The teacher may provide real-world examples (e.g., paycheck stubs, grocery store receipts, electronics purchase, car repairs, car purchase) so that students can discuss the role of taxes when creating a budget.

This unit was authored by a team of Colorado educators. The unit is intended to support teachers, schools, and districts as they make their own local decisions around the best instructional plans and practices for all students. To see the entire instructional unit sample with possible learning experiences, resources, differentiation, and assessments visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/instructionalunitsamples>.