

Investing Early: Classroom Lesson Plan

Lesson Topic:

Investing Early

Lesson Objective:

Students will be able to define common investing vocabulary and discuss the basics of investing.

Materials:

- Chart paper, divided into three columns
- Writing utensil
- Copies of **Vocabulary Word List**, one per student
- Tablets, laptops, grade-level appropriate books on finance and investing, or other sources of information for research
- Projector or other method to watch the video

Advanced Preparation:

- Preview the [video](#) before sharing it with your students [2:25].
- Divide chart paper into three equal columns, and title it "Investing".
- Make copies of **Vocabulary Word List** worksheet, enough for one per student.

- Prepare tablets, laptops, or source grade-level appropriate books on finance and investing for research portion of lesson.

Warm-up Activity:

1. Tell students that they will be watching a video about investing.
2. Allow students to turn and talk to a partner about what they already know about investing.
3. Title the first column of the paper "What We Think We Know". Ask students to share their knowledge from their partner discussion with the class. Make notes in the first column of the chart paper.
4. Introduce the **Vocabulary Word List** from the video. Have students circle the terms they are familiar with and look up the definitions of those they are not familiar with. Direct students to record their own definitions for the words they are familiar with and the dictionary definitions for those they are not. *Note that many of these terms are investment-specific so the first definition listed in the dictionary may not be applicable. Circulate to assist as needed or choose to complete this as a whole-class activity.*
5. For each term, have students work together to generate sentences that demonstrate their understanding of the vocabulary word in context (e.g., "If I owned one *share* of Disney, I would own a little piece of the company.")
6. Use this opportunity to clear up any misconceptions regarding word meanings as they relate to investing.

View the Video: "Investing Early"

1. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, "Investing Early".

2. Explain that the video presents role models explaining the value of investing and providing guidance on the steps that you could start taking today to begin your investment journey.
3. View the video together and have students listen for the role models to use the vocabulary words they just reviewed.
4. View the video again; this time, invite students to formulate questions or comments about the ideas discussed in the video. Students should be prepared to discuss these after viewing the video.

Video Follow-up:

1. Ask students to offer their questions, comments, reactions, and responses to the video.
2. Review students' ideas about investing from the warm-up activity.
3. Title the middle column of the chart paper "What We Learned".
4. Ask students to share things about investing they learned from the video. Note these ideas in the middle column of the chart paper.
5. Point out all the things that students learned about investing from the video by noting the number of things written in the second column of the chart paper.
6. Ask, "What things are you still wondering about investing?"
7. Direct students to turn and talk to a partner about questions they still have about investing or things they still want to learn.
8. As the conversation begins to die down, bring the class back together. Title the final column of the chart paper "Things We Want to Know".

9. Ask students to share their ideas and questions from their partner discussion with the class. Make notes in the third column of the chart paper. *Depending on the age of the students and their prior investment knowledge you may need to guide this discussion to ensure there are enough topics to research in Step 10.*
10. Divide students into groups of 3-4. Tell students that they will be working together to find the answer to one of the items in the “Things We Want to Know” column.
11. Have each group select one item from the “Things We Want to Know” column. Distribute laptops, tablets, or finance books.
12. Allow time for students to research and discover additional information about investing.
13. Bring the class back together and allow each group to share the answer they discovered. If desired, students can also make updates to the “What We Learned” column with new information from the group research time.
14. End by reminding students of the power of starting to invest early and consistently. Encourage students to discuss finance and investing with a parent or guardian to continue to grow their knowledge.

Extension Activities:

1. Use a stock market simulator to help students further explore the value of investing. There are many free options available online, such as <https://virtualstockmarket.tdbank.com/>.
2. Work with students to generate a list of investing and finance careers. Have each student select one or more careers to research. Students should find information on educational requirements, salary, job tasks, and potential career paths.
3. Define the term “compound interest”. Have students explore the power of compound interest using an online calculator such as <https://www.investor.gov/financial-tools-calculators/calculators/compound-interest-calculator>. Students can use various interest rates to compare how the location of money impacts the ultimate returns. Consider bank accounts, certificates of deposit (CDs), the stock market, and more!
4. Use the “Related Questions to Explore” as discussion springboards or writing prompts to help students further explore investing.

Related Questions to Explore:

- Many things can seem intimidating until you try them. What are some things in your life that seemed scary or made you nervous until you tried them out? Do you think investing might fall into this category? Why or why not?
- Imagine you are trying to explain the importance of investing early to a parent or guardian. What would you say?



Vocabulary Word List from "Investing Early" Video:

Bond

Invest

Mutual Fund

Share

Stock

Stock Market



Ideas for Future Lessons/Activities Related to Investing Early:

1. What Does It Take to Have a Career in Finance? Skills, Qualities, and Characteristics
2. Wait, I Can Own Disney?! What It Means to Be a Shareholder
3. Who's Who? Exploring Well-Known Females in Finance and Their Inspirations
4. From Paychecks to Bills to Savings: A Look at a Monthly Budget and How to Make One
5. The Language of Investments: ETFs, Mutual Funds, Bonds, and More
6. Where Did It All Begin? The History of the Stock Market
7. Math Connection: Reading, Interpreting, and Creating Stock Market Charts
8. Why Doesn't Everyone Agree? Conflicting Investment Advice and How to Make Your Own Informed Decisions