



Lesson: The Great Investo and the Money Tree

Developed by: The Center for Economic Education & Entrepreneurship

Materials:

Teacher will provide you with the link to Zoom (or other platform for audio/video conferencing used in the classroom) and provide you with the ability to share the screen. Contact the teacher at least a week and a half in advance to obtain the link.

Teacher will provide Handout 1, “*Interdependence*,” *one copy per student* or electronic access for students using a computer at home. You will not have to worry about giving students access.

Teacher will assign students parts for the play How Banks Affect the Community ahead of time.

Banker will provide pdf of book and activities for screen sharing.

Preparation:

Use the link below to access the book and handouts. Make sure you download and save the PDF. [The Great Investo and the Money Tree - Book and Handouts](#)

Review the lesson ahead of time. Practice sharing your screen and advancing the pages of the book and the activities that follow.

Check with the teacher to see how students are expected to respond to questions.

Procedure:

1. **Ask** the teacher to play the [introductory video](#) with a message from Governor Carney.
2. **Introduce** yourself and your bank.
3. Begin the lesson by **asking** the following questions
 - a. What does it mean to save money? (*Not spending your money right now, keeping it for later*)
 - b. Why is saving money important? (*Saving helps with making expensive purchases and with life’s emergencies.*)
 - c. How many of you save your money? (*Answers will vary.*)
 - d. What are some things you are saving for? (*Answers will vary.*)

4. **Share** your screen and bring up the book. **Read** the title and author. Tell students that The Great Investo, the Money Magician, is up to his old tricks of thinking he can conjure up money without having to work for it.
5. Begin to **read** the story, advancing the pages and stopping after page 6. **Ask:** Can anyone explain what *interest* is? (*Interest is the amount of money the bank adds to a savings account based on a percentage of the money saved.*) **Ask:** How could money saved in a bank help someone else other than the person saving? (*Answers will vary.*)
6. Continue reading, stopping after page 16. **Ask:** What does the bank do with money that has been saved by its customers? (*loans it to other people*) **Ask for predictions:** Why do people borrow money? (*Answers will vary.*)
7. Continue reading, stopping after page 17. **Ask:** What are some reasons people get loans? (*start or expand businesses, buy homes and cars, pay for education*)
8. Finish reading the book. Display page 48 and ask students to look at the handout.
9. **Ask:**
 - a. Where did the bank get the money it loaned to customers? (*Students and adults deposited money into their savings account*) Display page 49 and ask students to draw a line from students making deposits to the bank.
 - b. What are some reasons people get loans? (*buy a house or car, pay for education*) Display page 50 and ask students to draw a line from the bank to picture of student, home and car.
 - c. Who received a business loan from the bank? (*Lily for her Flower Shop*) Display page 51 and ask students to draw a line from the bank to Lily's shop.
 - d. How did Lily use some of the borrowed money? (*Hired a builder to expand her shop*) Display page 52 and ask students to draw a line from Lily to the builder.
 - e. What did the builder do with the money he received from Lily? (*Hired construction workers*) Display page 53 and ask students to draw a line from the builder to the construction workers.
 - f. Why are businesses growing? (*More people have jobs, so they have more money to spend and save*) Display page 54 and ask students to draw a line from the construction workers to the businesses—grocery store, ice cream shop and toy store and a line from the construction workers to the bank.
 - g. What does the bank do with the deposits from all its customers? (*gives out more loans*) Display page 55 and ask students to draw a line from the bank to the business owner getting a loan.
 - h. What is a result of the businesses getting loans? (*more people have jobs, so they have more money to spend.*) Display page 56 and draw a line from the business owner receiving the loan to the woman being hired.)
 - i. What will the newly hired worker do? (*Save and spend some of her money*) Display page 57 and ask students to draw a line from the worker hired by the business owner to the businesses and to the bank.

10. **Ask:** What do the lines look like? (*a web*) What does the web show? (*how everything is connected*) Explain that businesses and people, such as savers, borrowers, consumers, and workers, are connected to each other and depend on each other. Display page 58. Tell students this is called **interdependence**.
11. **Ask:** What happens to the community because of the loan made to Lily? (*Builders and a new clerk get jobs; those people earn an income so they spend money at other stores; they save some money in the bank to earn interest; the bank then has money to loan to other people.*)
12. **Ask:** What happens to a community when a business closes? (*People lose jobs and no longer have incomes, so they do not have money to save or spend.*)
13. Return to the slides. Show page 59. Check with the teacher to make sure she assigned roles for the play. Have students read their parts from the visual on the screen. Advance the screen as necessary. When the skit is finished, have a student summarize what has happened. (*Because Mr. Bates deposited his bonus check in the bank, many members of the community benefited.*) **Ask:** *How are the play and the book similar? (Both had individuals who deposited money. The savers earned interest. The banks made loans that resulted in growth of businesses and creation of jobs.)*

YOU MAY NOT HAVE TIME TO DO THE PLAY. The teacher will have access to the slides and a hard copy of the play to do this activity with the class after you leave.

14. **Wrap-up** –Ask the following questions:
 - Who benefits from money saved in a bank? (*Everyone benefits: the saver earns interest and the bank can make loans that will enhance business in the community.*)
 - What is the word we use that means people and businesses rely on one another and are connected? (*interdependence*)