
MIDDLE SCHOOL FINANCIAL MATH UNIT

Math Meets Real Life

3 Weeks of Standards-Aligned Lessons

Grades 7 – 8

Budgeting • Interest • Percentages • Unit Rates • Data Interpretation

15 Lesson Plans • Student Workbook • Projects • Unit Test & Keys

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TEACHER OVERVIEW & PACING GUIDE

This comprehensive unit bridges the gap between abstract math concepts and real-world financial literacy. Aligned to 7th and 8th-grade math standards (Ratios & Proportional Relationships, Expressions & Equations), this unit empowers students to make informed financial decisions.

ALIGNED STANDARDS (CCSS):

7.RP.A.1, 7.RP.A.2, 7.RP.A.3 (Ratios & Proportional Relationships)
7.EE.B.3 (Solve multi-step real-life problems)
8.EE.C.7 (Solve linear equations)

3-Week Pacing Guide:

Week	Topic	Lessons	Focus
Week 1	Income, Budgeting & Unit Rates	1 - 5	Calculating income, creating zero-based budgets, comparing unit prices.
Week 2	Percentages, Taxes & Interest	6 - 10	Sales tax, discounts, simple vs. compound interest, loan calculations.
Week 3	Data & Financial Decisions	11 - 15	Reading financial charts, interpreting data, final project, unit test.

Unit Components Included:

- **15 Lesson Plans:** Brief overviews with objectives and materials for each day.
- **Student Workbook (35+ pages):** Notes, guided practice, and independent problem sets.
- **Real-World Problem Sets:** Authentic scenarios (buying a car, paying taxes, budgeting).
- **Calculator Activities:** Instructions on using calculators for complex interest formulas.
- **Project Options:** A cumulative budgeting project to apply all learned skills.
- **Unit Test & Answer Keys:** Comprehensive assessment and keys for all workbook pages.

LESSON 1: CALCULATING INCOME

Name: _____ Date: _____

Objective: Understand the difference between hourly wages and salary, and calculate gross pay.

Key Vocabulary:

Hourly Wage: A specific amount of money paid for each hour worked.

Salary: A fixed regular payment made by an employer, often paid monthly or bi-weekly, regardless of hours worked.

Gross Pay: The total amount of money earned before any taxes or deductions are taken out.

Guided Practice:

1. Maria earns \$12.50 per hour. Last week, she worked 28 hours. What is her gross pay?

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2. David earns \$15.00 per hour, plus time-and-a-half for any hours over 40. He worked 45 hours this week. What is his gross pay?

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3. Sarah has an annual salary of \$52,000. She is paid bi-weekly (26 times a year). What is her gross pay per paycheck?

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LESSON 2: WHAT IS A BUDGET?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Objective: Understand the purpose of a budget and identify fixed vs. variable expenses.

A budget is a plan for how to spend and save your money. A good budget ensures your expenses do not exceed your income.

Types of Expenses:

Fixed Expenses: Costs that stay the same every month (e.g., rent, car payment, insurance).

Variable Expenses: Costs that change from month to month (e.g., groceries, gas, entertainment).

Sort the Expenses:

Write each expense in the correct column below.

Expenses: Rent, Movie Tickets, Groceries, Car Loan, Electric Bill, Gym Membership, Dining Out, Bus Pass

Fixed Expenses	Variable Expenses
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LESSON 3: CREATING A MONTHLY BUDGET

Name: _____ Date: _____

Objective: Apply income and expenses to create a zero-based budget.

Alex just got his first full-time job and earns \$3,200 per month in gross pay. After taxes, his net income is **\$2,600 per month**. Help Alex create a zero-based budget where his income minus his expenses equals zero.

Category	Expense Item	Amount (\$)
Income	Net Monthly Pay	\$2,600.00
Housing	Rent	\$900.00
Housing	Utilities (Electric/Water)	\$150.00
Transportation	Car Payment	\$250.00
Transportation	Gas	\$120.00
Food	Groceries	\$300.00
Savings	Emergency Fund	\$200.00
	Remaining for Other/Variable	\$_____

1. How much money does Alex have left for variable expenses (entertainment, dining out, clothes)?

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2. If Alex spends \$50 on a video game and \$75 on dining out, how much is left?

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LESSON 4: UNIT RATES & BEST BUYS

Name: _____ Date: _____

Objective: Calculate unit rates to determine the better buy.

A **unit rate** is a ratio that compares a quantity to one unit of another quantity (e.g., price per ounce). To find the unit rate, divide the total price by the total quantity.

Which is the Better Buy?

Calculate the unit price for each option and circle the better buy.

Option	Math Work	Unit Price
Brand A: 16 oz for \$3.20		\$_____ / oz
Brand B: 24 oz for \$5.76		\$_____ / oz

2. Cereal: 18 oz for \$4.50 OR 28 oz for \$6.72. Show your math and state the better buy.

LESSON 5: UNIT RATES IN THE REAL WORLD

Name: _____ Date: _____

Objective: Apply unit rates to speed, calories, and earnings.

Unit rates are not just for shopping! We use them for speed (miles per hour), calories (calories per serving), and earnings (dollars per hour).

1. Car A traveled 280 miles on 8 gallons of gas. Car B traveled 195 miles on 5 gallons of gas. Which car gets better gas mileage (miles per gallon)?

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2. A bag of chips says a serving size is 1 ounce (about 15 chips), which contains 140 calories. If you eat 45 chips, how many calories did you consume?

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