

# Homework Menu #9



name: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** For homework this month you will be working on and completing projects of your choice. Below is a list of projects that you may choose from. If you have an idea of your own which is not listed, check with Russ for permission to try it. As you complete each project you will have a chance to share it with your classmates. Some projects may take more time than others to finish. To keep track of the time you spend on your homework projects, you and your parents will complete a homework time sheet that is to be turned in each Friday. When you finish one project, begin working on your next project as soon as you can. All projects will be due no later than the nearest Friday to the end of the month. At that time a new menu will be given out.

**Focus of the Month:** Economics and Money

**Skills included:** Reading comprehension; interviewing; interpreting/inferring; data collection; oral and written communication; observation; artistic representation; expository writing and presenting; analysis; synthesis; research skills; entrepreneurship skills; statistical representation.

## Project Menu:

□ The currency in the United States is made up of quite a few different coins and bills. Some of these are used more often than others. Collect some examples of the following: a \$1.00 coin and a \$1.00 bill, a \$2.00 bill, or a 50¢ coin. Note: you can usually get these at a bank. Using your coins or bills as a samples, survey at least 10 different adults about which they prefer to use; \$1.00 coins or \$1.00 bills, a \$2.00 bill or two \$1.00 bills, a 50¢ coin or two quarters. After you have collected this information, graph your results and share your findings with the class.

□ There are times when I really enjoy going to a restaurant to eat. There are other times that I would rather eat a home cooked meal. It does make me wonder however which costs more, a meal I buy the ingredients for at a grocery store and then cook myself, or a meal prepared for me at a restaurant. Write down a simple menu that you often like to eat. Be sure to include all of the parts to the meal including something to drink; perhaps a hamburger, french fries, and a glass of milk. Next, go to the grocery store and find the price for each of the ingredients to make this meal. Be sure that you break the costs down to individual servings. For example, hamburger buns usually come packaged in groups of 8. If a package of 8 hamburger buns costs \$2.00, you would divide \$2.00 by 8 and find out that the cost of each bun is 25¢. Next go to a restaurant and check out their menu. Find out what the same exact meal would cost there. Write down the cost for each item on your menu. Next, create a poster showing what you found out, listing the home cooked meal in one column and the restaurant cooked meal in another column. Be sure to also write a paragraph or two that tells what you found out. Bonus idea: Find out the cost of feeding your whole family both ways.

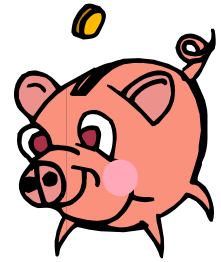


□ Go to the **Hot Shot Business** website and play the simulation game. In it you will create a business and learn what it takes to get a successful one running.

After you have finished, create a way to share with the class what you learned. The URL is: <http://web.archive.org/web/20130309171046/http://www.disney.go.com/hotshot/hsb3/index.html>

□ Banks are interesting places, they specialize in money and doing all kinds of things with it. Set up an interview of someone that works at a local bank. Find out everything that you can about what services are offered there. Ask questions such as:

- Where do you keep all of the money?
- What options do you give people who want to keep their savings in the bank?
- What is a loan?
- What are some reasons people get loans?
- What is interest?
- If I want to buy a car for \$20,000 dollars when I turn 16, which is less expensive for me; putting money into a savings account every month until I am ready to buy the car, or getting a loan from the bank when I turn 16?
- If I want to retire from working when I turn 60 years old and I put \$1.00 a week into a savings account starting right now, how much money would I have when I am ready to retire?



Be sure you take notes during and just after the interview, writing down the answers to all of your questions. After you have found out everything you can about the bank, use your notes to write a report or create a poster to share with the class. Bonus idea: ask the person you interview if they can give you a mini-tour and if you can take some pictures of different parts of the bank - maybe they will even let you see the inside of the bank's vault!

□ President Calvin Coolidge said in a speech in 1925 that "the business of America is business." If you choose this project, you will be given the opportunity to be a part of the "...business of America..." To do this you will make a plan to start your own business with the purpose of making a profit. You might want to have a lemonade stand, walk dogs, take care of neighborhood cats while their owners are on short vacations, or even sell eggs that your own chickens produce! Whatever it is you decide to do, be sure to discuss it with your parents, they will be able to help you get started. Every successful business begins with a detailed business plan and that is what you will need to create. It should include what your business will be, what you predict your expenses for materials will be, how you plan to attract customers (including advertising expenses), what you will charge for your products or services, and what you predict your profits will be. Prepare a final draft of your business plan as if you were going to present it to some possible investors. You may choose to include a written report or poster with pictures, graphs, and charts, or perhaps a PowerPoint presentation. Bring your presentation to school and share it with your class. Bonus idea: put your plan into action, start your business and see how well you do in the first month of operation. Report to the class how well you did along with presenting your plan.

□ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Expectations:** It is expected that chosen projects will be finished completely, neatly, and in a timely manner. It is also expected that students will gain a depth of understanding about their project's topic upon completion. Further, while students are encouraged to work on one project at a time, it is entirely possible for students to complete any number of projects in the timeframe given. Students should also remember to keep homework interesting by challenging themselves to learn as much as possible and to do the best work they can.

**Important:** These projects will likely require mutual involvement of students and their parents. To ensure the quality and depth of understanding expected, they likely cannot be completed in one evening prior to the due date. Each student will have to use their time wisely, doing a little bit at a time until a project is complete. Use the Project Planning Form to help you successfully complete your project on time.

