



Wyoming Social Studies Content and Performance Standards

What Citizens Need to Know About Economics
addresses Wyoming Social Studies Content and Performance Standards for the
economics component of the social studies curriculum grade 11.



Content Standard 3. Production, Distribution, and Consumption

Students demonstrate an understanding of economic principles and concepts and describe the influence of economic factors on societies.

BENCHMARK GRADE 11

1. Students identify concepts of economics under market, command, and mixed systems by answering the following five questions:
 - a) What will be produced?
 - b) How will it be produced?
 - c) Who will produce it?
 - d) Who will consume it?
 - e) Where will it be produced?

- *Chapter 2 explains how economics attempts to answer the basic economic questions: What will be produced? How will it be produced? Who will produce it? Who will consume it? Where will it be produced? The interaction of the questions is explored and illustrated with a graphic. Links to related articles and Web sites are included for further research and specific examples.*

- *Chapter 3 identifies concepts of economics under market, command, traditional, and mixed economies. A comparison of capitalism, socialism and communism is also included. Specific examples of each are cited and links to related articles and Web sites are provided for more information. Web links are also included to the biographies of influential economic philosophers, like Adam Smith and Karl Marx, and the complete texts of their most famous works.*

2. Students explain how people organize for production, distribution and consumption of goods and services.

- *Chapter 1 provides an introduction to economics and explains how people organize for production, distribution and consumption of goods and services.*

- *Chapter 3 explains how people organize for production, distribution and consumption of goods and services in different types of economic systems based on societal needs. Key concepts and terms, such as command, market, traditional and mixed economies, are defined.*
- *Chapter 4 describes the relationship between consumers and producers in determining the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services. A graphic is included to illustrate this relationship. Concepts, like caveat emptor and diminishing utility, are defined. Links to related articles and Web sites are included for further information on issues associated with consumerism.*
- *Chapter 7 explores how people organize in businesses to produce and distribute goods and services. The role of the entrepreneur is described and Web links are included to biographies of important entrepreneurs, like Ray Kroc, the founder of McDonald's, and Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft. Different types of businesses—sole proprietorships, partnerships and corporations—are identified and links to related articles and Web sites include more information on issues associated with businesses.*

3. Students formulate solutions to economic problems, which arise from the imbalance of wants, needs and scarcity of resources.

- *Chapter 2 describes economic choices that arise from the imbalance of wants, needs and scarcity of resources. Key concepts and terms, such as subsistence levels, scarcity and consumption, are defined. The use of the production possibilities curve to identify economic choices is explained and illustrated with a graphic.*

4. Students describe financial and governmental economic institutions relative to banking, credit, and regulation.

- *Chapter 11 examines banking institutions and describes the role of banks and money in an economic system. Different types of banks are identified and the role of the Federal Reserve System is described. The way banks and the Federal Reserve determine the interest rate on credit is discussed and the way banks create money through savings and loans is explained. Key concepts and terms, like reserve requirements and discount rates, are defined. Web links are included to all branches of the Federal Reserve.*
- *Chapter 12 explores the role of government in regulating the economy. The impact of governmental regulations on businesses and households is described. Web links are included to many government agencies involved in regulation, such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration.*

5. Students describe the impacts of global economic interdependence.

- *Chapter 22 explores issues associated with international trade. Key terms, such as tariffs, quotas and balance of trade, are defined. A history of U.S. trade policy is included and the debate between free trade and protectionism is presented. Links to related articles provide opposing views of the free trade debate. Web links are included to major regional trade organizations, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and the European Union.*
- *Chapter 23 describes the impacts of global economic interdependence. The impact of the 1971 decision by the U.S. government to abandon the gold standard and the impact of the 1997 Asian financial crisis are cited as examples. The role of international organizations is also explored and Web links are included to major international economic organizations, such as the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund.*

6. Students interpret and apply data to economic situations and problems.

- *Chapter 1 explains how economists calculate data and apply them to economic situations and problems. Different economic indicators, including gross domestic product, consumer price index and unemployment, are identified and illustrated with graphics. Web links are included to the government organizations that maintain those economic indicators for more information and current statistics for research.*
- *Chapter 14 explains how gross domestic product (GDP) is calculated and used to determine the state of the economy. The accuracy of GDP is debated and alternatives to GDP, like the human development index (HDI), are identified. Web links are included for current GDP and HDI statistics.*
- *Chapter 17 explains how the government interprets and applies data to economic situations and problems in an effort to maintain a stable economy. The impacts of fiscal and monetary policy decisions are explored and concepts, such as open market operations and deficit financing, are defined. The debate between Keynesian and supply-side economists is highlighted and links to related articles include opposing views of ways to stabilize the economy. Links to related articles and Web sites also include current information on U.S. monetary and fiscal policy decisions and their consequences.*
- *Chapter 19 explains how data is gathered to interpret the levels of unemployment. Key concepts and terms, like underemployed workers and structural unemployment, are defined. Web links are included for current unemployment statistics from the federal government.*
- *Learning tools, linked to all chapters, include activities that require students to interpret and apply data to situations and problems.*