

# RAFT IDEAS

**Topics:** Health, Money, Economics

## Materials List

- ✓ Pencil, paper, calculators (if appropriate)
- ✓ Blank dice
- ✓ Permanent marker
- ✓ Various retail catalogs and /or store ads showing prices
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Glue or tape

This activity can be used to support the teaching of:

- Environmental and genetic factors influence organism growth (Next Generation Science Standards: Middle School, Life Science, 1-5)

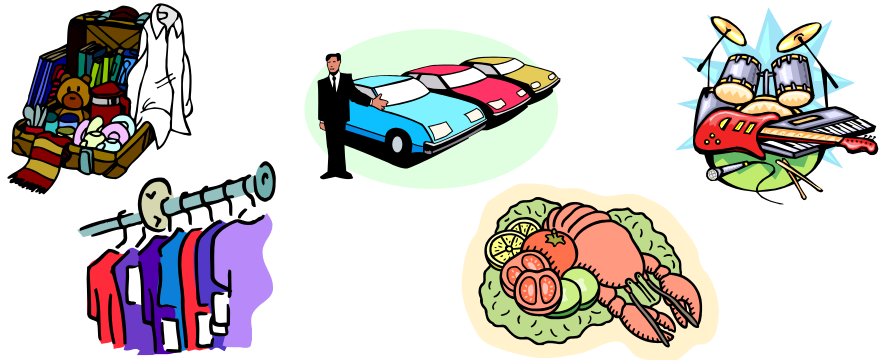
Common Core Math Standards:

- Multiplication (Grade 4, Number and Operations in Base Ten, 5)
- Problems involving time & money (Grade 4, Measurement and Data, 2)
- Operations with fractions (Number & Operations - Fractions, Grade 4, 4; Grade 5, 3-7)



# The Money You Will Save

## What Would You Buy?



Smoking is not cheap. Students discover the financial costs of smoking in this “shop with your savings” activity.

### Assembly

Use permanent marker to label any blank dice with  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, 1,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , and 2.

### To Do and Notice

(Note: This is a role-playing activity where participants respond to questions as if they were a cigarette smoker.)

1. Participants determine the number of cigarette packs smoked by rolling one of the specially marked dice. For example, if a student rolls a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , then he should assume for the activity that he smokes  $1\frac{1}{2}$  packs of cigarettes per day.
2. Do the math to determine the amount of money spent on cigarettes per week, per month, and per year. Participants can determine the cost of a pack of cigarettes in any valid way that they wish. One student may wish to use prices from a convenience store while another may use prices from a discount supplier. However, the prices should be in an accurate range; cigarettes do NOT cost \$1.00 per pack or less anywhere.
3. After determining the amount spent on cigarettes, participants can decide how they would use the money saved if they quit smoking. They can use catalogs and store ads to create a collage visual of “wish list” items.
4. Student papers should include: number of cigarette packs smoked per day; math work of how they determined the amount spent on cigarettes per week, per month, and per year; and images, drawings, or cut-outs of specific items that they would buy with the money saved.
5. A group discussion should follow the activity. Participants should share their papers and discuss how they arrived at the amounts spent, and then elaborate on how they would feel having the extra spending money.

### The Content Behind the Activity

Cigarette smoking can be a very expensive habit. A 2-pack a day smoker purchasing mainly in convenience stores could save as much as \$2,500 per year or more by quitting. For some students, the end of their life is so far off that 10 years one way or another does not seem significant. But money matters to young people, perhaps even more than to adults. This activity illustrates that smoking also affects financial health and provides yet another reason, with obvious incentive, to make healthy choices.

**Web Resources** (Visit [www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=232](http://www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=232) for more resources!)

- Teacher designed math courses – <https://njctl.org/courses/math>