

National Content Standards in Economics

Standard 1: Productive resources are limited. Therefore, people cannot have all the goods and services they want; as a result, they must choose some things and give up others.		
	Lesson 1	<p>People make <i>choices</i> because they cannot have everything they want</p> <p><i>Economic wants</i> are desires that can be satisfied by consuming a good, service, or leisure activity.</p>
	Lesson 2	<p><i>Scarcity</i> is the condition of not being able to have all of the goods and services one wants. It exists because human wants for goods and services exceed the quantity of goods and services that can be produced using all available resources.</p>
	Lesson 3	<p><i>Goods</i> are objects that can satisfy people's wants.</p>
	Lesson 4	<p><i>Services</i> are actions that can satisfy people's wants.</p>
	Lesson 5	<p><i>Natural resources</i>, such as land, are "gifts of nature"; they are present without human intervention.</p>
	Lesson 6	<p><i>Human resources</i> are the quantity and quality of human effort directed toward producing goods and services.</p> <p><i>Capital goods</i> are goods produced and used to make other goods and services.</p>
	Lesson 7	<p>People who make goods and services are called <i>producers</i>.</p>
	Lesson 8	<p>People whose wants are satisfied by using goods and services are called <i>consumers</i>.</p>
	Lesson 9	<p>People make <i>choices</i> because they cannot have everything they want.</p> <p>Whenever a <i>choice</i> is made, something is given up.</p> <p>The <i>opportunity cost</i> of a choice is the value of the best alternative given up.</p>
	Lesson 10	<p><i>Human resources</i> are the quantity and quality of human effort directed toward producing goods and services.</p> <p>Human capital refers to the quality of labor resources, which can be improved through investments in education, training, and health.</p>
Standard 6: When individuals, regions, and nations specialize in what they can produce at the lowest cost and then trade with others, both production and consumption increase.		
	Lesson 11	<p>Economic <i>specialization</i> occurs when people concentrate their production on fewer kinds of goods and services than they consume.</p>
Standard 5: Voluntary exchange occurs only when all participating parties expect to gain. This is true for trade among individuals or organizations within a nation, and among individuals or organizations in different nations.		
	Lesson 12	<p>The oldest form of exchange is <i>barter</i>.</p>