

Economics



Students use economic reasoning skills and knowledge of major economic concepts, issues and systems in order to make informed choices as producers, consumers, savers, investors, workers and citizens in an interdependent world.

In the Ohio Academic Content Standards, benchmarks are key checkpoints that monitor progress toward academic content standards and are identified by grade-level clusters or bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-10, 11-12). For each standard we include the benchmarks for the grade-level clusters of K-2 and 3-5 that best align with each book.

Benchmarks:

By the end of the K-2 program:

- A. Explain how the scarcity of resources requires people to make choices to satisfy their wants.
- B. Distinguish between goods and services and explain how people can be both buyers and sellers of goods and services.
- C. Explain ways that people may obtain goods and services.

By the end of the 3-5 program:

- A. Explain the opportunity costs involved in the allocation of scarce productive resources.
- B. Explain why entrepreneurship, capital goods, technology, specialization and division of labor are important in the production of goods and services.
- C. Explain how competition affects producers and consumers in a market economy and why specialization facilitates trade

Apple Farmer Annie

Monica Wellington (2004). Puffin Books

Annie is a young girl who is in charge of caring for an orchard. Every fall Annie picks the apples and turns them into applesauce, apple cider, apple cake, and apple muffins. She saves the best apples so that she can sell them at the market.

K-2 B, C 3-5 A, B, C

Abuela's Weave

Omar S. Castaneda (1993). Lee and Low Books. Enrique O. Sanchez, illustrator.

Esperanza and her grandmother work hard at their weaving to produce goods for the market in a nearby Guatemalan town. They wonder if it will be possible for them to produce the beautiful items that people will buy, especially since the items sold by other vendors are machine-made. Throughout the book a number of Guatemalan traditions and legends are discussed.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C

Apple Picking Time

Michele Benoit Slawson (1994). Deborah Kogan Ray, illustrator.

Everybody helps out during apple picking time and there are only three weeks to get everything done. This book follows the daily routines of the apple pickers as they take off from their regular jobs for this seasonal family and community event, including the satisfaction of having a half-moon punched in your purple ticket for a full load. Apple recipes and "purple ticket arithmetic" activities are included.

K-2 B, C 3-5 A, B, C

Arthur's Funny Money

Lillian Hoban (1981) HarperCollins Publishers.

Arthur has a problem – he needs to buy a T-shirt and matching cap for his Frisbee team, but he does not have enough money. His little sister wants help with her numbers problem. Together they decide to go into business, washing bikes. Many dilemmas are encountered along the way and both learn important business principles in the process.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C

A Band of Angels

Hopkinson, Deborah (1999). Atheneum Books for Young Readers

This book describes the life of the narrator's great grandmother, Ella, and her ambition to attend college. Ella was 14 years old when the Civil War and slavery ended and, at that time, it was very rare to see African-Americans attending college. But Ella saved all of her money from playing the piano and scrubbing clothes to attend Fisk School in Nashville. While at school, she joins the school's chorus because of her piano talent and her amazing voice. The chorus group was told that their school building was in need of repair, but the school lacked the funds to fix it. To raise money to repair the building, the choir goes on the road to perform.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C

Behind the Mountains

Edwidge Danticat (2004). Scholastic, Inc.

Celiane is a young girl who lives in Haiti. During election time, her family travels from their rural home to the capital city of Port-au-Prince, where bombs are exploding. Celiane and her mother are nearly killed. Celiane experiences a new desire to be reunited with her father in Brooklyn, New York. After moving there, she sees the difficulties that her family is still facing, such as finding jobs and dealing with a new school.

K-2 A 3-5 A

Benny's Pennies

Pat Brisson (1995). Bantam Doubleday Dell Books for Young Readers. Bob Barner, illustrator.

Benny McBride has five pennies to spend and strolls through the afternoon sun deciding what to buy. Instead of being selfish he ends up buying goods for his family, and nothing for himself. In the process, young readers learn not only about generosity but also the difference between goods and services.

K-2 A, B 3-5 A

The Big Green Pocketbook

Candice Ransom (1993). HarperCollins Publishers. Felicia Bond, illustrator.

A little girl goes to town to run errands with her mother and carries her big green pocketbook with her, to match her mother's blue one. But she is not sure what to do with it. During the day many stores and businesses are visited and, along the way, she finds many interesting and helpful ways to put her purse to good use.

K-2 B, C 3-5 B

Bunny Cakes.

R. Wells (1997). Penguin Books

Max and Ruby, a brother and sister, are going to make their grandmother a birthday cake. Max makes a birthday cake out of mud and earthworms. Ruby then tells him that they are going to make an angel surprise cake with raspberry icing. Max wanted to help Ruby, but he dropped the eggs. Ruby sent him to the store with a list of things to get, and Max added red-hot marshmallow squirters to the list. The grocer gave Max the eggs. Max returned home, and spilled the milk, and eventually the flour. Each time, Ruby sends him back to the store Max adds red-hot marshmallow squirters to the list. But the grocer is not able to read Max's writing. Finally, Max heads back to the store for more supplies and draws a picture of the red-hot marshmallow squirters. The grocer understands and both bunnies are able to finish making their cake to the delight of their grandmother, who loves both cakes equally.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A

Bunny Money

R. Wells (1997). Penguin Books

In this book Max and Ruby go shopping to buy their grandmother a birthday present. Ruby has saved some money, and she takes her brother along to help pick out a gift for their grandma. Little by little, they make some not-so-good choices and their supply of money decreases. They then realize that they don't have enough money, and must start over on their decisions of how to best spend the money.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A

A Chair For My Mother

Vera B. Williams (1982). Scholastic

After all their furniture is lost in a house fire, family members save coins to buy a comfortable chair. The mother, a waitress in the Blue Tile Diner, empties all the change from tips out of her purse nightly. She, her mother and daughter count the money and put it in a large jar. When the jar is completely full, they go out to buy the most beautiful, fattest, softest armchair they can find.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A

Dan's Pants

Merle Good, Cheryl A. Benner (illustrator) (2004). Good Books

Dan is a sales man who goes around town wearing funny looking pants while he sales fabric to his customers. Every season his wife makes him a new pair of pants from the fabric that he sells. Imagine having ninety pairs of these attention-grabbing pants. Dan's collection grows in size with each passing year.

This book, based on a true story, provides some insight to what country stores and other small businesses might have looked like in the past.

K-2 B, C

3-5 B, C

Down Buttermilk Lane

Barbara Mitchell, John Sandford (1993). Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books

This story follows an Amish family as they travel in their buggy to the local village where they visit and do errands. Many of the cultural ways of the Amish are interwoven in the dialogue and pictures.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Eyewitness Books: Money

Joe Cribb (2005). DK Publishing.

This book provides hundreds of interesting pictures and drawings that follow the history of money, discusses various forms of trade, looks at money from nations around the world, and examines the role of checks and credit cards. A timeline and glossary are also provided.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Esperanza Rising

Pam Muñoz Ryan (2002). Scholastic, Inc.

Right before the Great Depression, Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their home in Mexico where they have wealth and privilege to live in Southern California. In their new setting they have to face and adjust to the harsh circumstances of being Mexican farm workers.

K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B

Family Farm

Thomas Locker (1988). Dial Books

A farm family nearly loses their home until they hit on the idea of growing and selling pumpkins and flowers to supplement their corn and milk sales. Wonderfully illustrated throughout, this book shows the value of determination and diversification.

K-2 A, B 3-5 A, B, C

From Plant to Blue Jeans: A Photo Essay

Arthur John L'Hommedieu (1997). Children's Press

This book explores the step-by-step process how the cotton plant is used to make clothing, specifically, blue jeans. The harvesting of the cotton, the weaving process, and the sewing of the final product are all included.

K-2 C 3-5 B, C

Get Growing

Candace Savage, Gary Clement (1991). Firefly Books

This book examines the challenges of keeping the Earth's people supplied with food. Methods to conserve nutrients in the soil along with other effective

farming techniques are discussed along with conservation issues such as deforestation and dust bowl problems.

K-2 A, B

3-5 A, B, C

The Gift.

Aliana Brodmann, Anthony Carnabuci (1993). Simon & Schuster

A little girl receives her Hanukkah money and tries to decide on how to best spend it. Nothing seems quite right until she hears the soft melody of street musician's accordion. Suddenly, she knows what her gift is for. In addition to the concepts of scarcity and opportunity costs, an important message of the value of charity for both the giver and the receiver is presented.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

The Go-Around Dollar

Barbara Johnston Adams (1992). Simon and Schuster

Each two-page layout simultaneously follows the course of a dollar bill that Matt finds on his way home from school as it passes from owner to owner and while also providing factual information and interesting anecdotes about dollar bills.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A

The Goat in the Rug

Charles L. Blood & Martin Link (1976). Aladdin Paperbacks. Nancy Parker, illustrator.

Geraldine, a goat, describes each step as she and her Navajo friend go through to make a rug, from the hair clipping and carding to the dyeing and actual weaving. The pride and attention to detail that goes into making hand-made crafts, as well as the need and importance of cooperation, are all highlighted.

K-2 B, C 3-5 B, C

Lemonade for Sale

Stuart J. Murphy (1998). Harper Trophy

In order to fix their clubhouse a group of young children decides to set up a lemonade stand to raise money. They use bar graphs to help them keep track of how much they are selling. After a sudden drop in sales, the children learn that they have some heavy competition. They decide to invite the competition to set up his lemonade stand beside theirs and are surprised to discover that sales drastically increase.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C

Little Nino's Pizzeria

Karen Barbour (1987). Harcourt Brace

Tony is a young boy who helps his father at his pizzeria, Little Nino's, by kneading the pizza dough, stirring sauce, grating cheese, and bussing tables. Nino, Tony's father, has such a successful pizzeria, that a businessman came to talk with him about opening a more fancy and expensive restaurant. Tony's father closes his small restaurant. Tony later discovers that he misses the old way of doing things and decides that he will reopen his small pizzeria. This time he will rename the restaurant, Little Tony's.

K-2 B, C 3-5 B, C

Make Way for Ducklings

Robert McCloskey (1941). The Viking Press

Mr. & Mrs. Mallard are looking for a place to live. Every time Mr. Mallard finds a place, Mrs. Mallard says it is not a good place to raise a family. They finally decide on a place in Boston along the Charles River. Mrs. Mallard has eight ducklings and decides to leave the Charles River site and settle in the Boston Commons. The trip from the river to the Commons becomes quite a problem for Michael, the policeman, who oversees the adventure.

K-2 A

Mama is a Miner

George Ella Lyon (1994). Orchard Books. Peter Catalanotto, illustrator.

This story is about a little girl's feelings about having a Mama who works in the coalmines of Kentucky. The descriptive text and beautiful illustrations take the reader down the crowded mantrip car into the heart of Black Mountain for a peek at the life of a miner. Included are also informative sections about the mining industry.

K-2 B, C 3-5 B, C

Market

Ted Lewin (1996). Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books

This book describes, in simple text and rich illustrations, the special characteristics of different types of markets throughout the world. Some of the sites visited include: Fulton Fish Markets in New York; a market high in the Andes Mountains; Durbar Square in Patan; a small village market in Ireland; and many more.

K-2 B, C 3-5 B, C

Milk Makers

Gail Gibbons (1987). Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing

In order for cows to make good milk, they must eat special feed. From beginning to end, this book takes the reader through the process of milk production, providing a great opportunity to teach children about producers and consumers.

K-2 B, C 3-5 B, C

My Rows and Piles of Coins

Tololwa Mollel (1999). Clarion Books

This book is about a young boy, Saruni, who wants a bike more than anything else. He receives money from his mother and father for helping on market day. He saves his money, but is unable to save enough for the cost of the bike. In the end his parents give him a bike as a reward for his help and efforts.

K-2 A, B 3-5 A

Ultimate Kids' Money Book

Neale S. Godfrey, Randy Verougstraete (2002). Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

This book provides an overview of economics and money, including earning, spending, saving, checks and credit cards, banks, and the history of money.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

A New Coat for Anna

Harriet Ziefert, Anita Lobel (illustrator) (1988). Knopf Publishing Group

Set in post-World War II, Anna's mother barter valuable items with her neighbors for wool and the services needed, such as spinning, weaving, and tailoring, so that she can have a coat. It culminates with a Christmas party in which all the people who contributed to the coat are invited.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Once Upon a Company...A True Story

Wendy Anderson Halperin (1998). Orchard Books

This book is a true story about a sister and brother who are bored and decide to start their own company selling Christmas wreaths. It goes through the steps that they have to take to start their own business. They decide to save all of the profit they make and put it in a college fund. The book follows the children through six years and shows how their company expands, and starts selling new products and adding distributors. They end up making over sixteen thousand dollars for their college fund.

K-2 B, C 3-5 B, C

Ox Cart Man

Donald Hall, Barbara Cooney (illustrator) (1983). Puffin Books

Describes the yearly economic cycle of a New England family in the early nineteenth century. The cottage industry of the family, the system of trade, and the daily routines of the seasons are described in this classic text.

K-2 B, C 3-5 B, C

Pancakes, Pancakes

Eric Carle (1990). Aladdin Paperbacks.

When Jack wakes up and wants pancakes for breakfast. Jack's mother agrees, but requires Jack's help to gather all the necessary ingredients. He is sent in pursuit of the wheat that must be cut and threshed and taken to the miller, the eggs from the hen, and the milk from the cow to be made into butter, and the jam that goes on top. Illustrated in Eric Carle's well-known style.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Potato: A Tale From the Great Depression

Kate Lied (1997). National Geographic Society

Clarence lost his job and the bank forecloses on his house. Since there were no jobs available, Clarence, his wife Agnes, and daughter Dorothy set off for Idaho. They borrowed a car and money for gas and left to find a job in Idaho picking potatoes, where Clarence and his family were allowed to have the leftover potatoes from the fields. They traded potatoes for other things, such as groceries. Eventually, they earned enough money to go home.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Reuben and the Quilt

Merle Good (1999). Good Books

This is the story of an Amish family who works to help a friend in a time of need. One of Reuben's neighbors became ill and needed money to have an operation. In order to raise the money, Reuben's entire family sewed a quilt to sell at an auction. The day before the auction, the quilt disappears off the front porch. Disappointed and upset, Reuben's family nearly gives up. However, the father had an idea that results in the quilt being returned safely. Enough money was raised to complete the neighbor's operation and the generous grocery store owner who bought the quilt gave it to the neighbor to stay warm under as he rested.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Saturday's Sancocho

Leyla Torres (1995). Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Wanting to make chicken sancocho for their usual Saturday meal, but not having money or the needed ingredients, Maira's mother takes what she does have (a dozen eggs) to the market. Here she sells and barter back and forth until all the necessary items are obtained. Included in the book is a recipe for making chicken sancocho.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

A Street Called Home

Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson (1997). Harcourt Brace & Company.

An accordion style flap-book written about African American life at the turn of the century, which takes place in a shantytown called the Blackberry Patch in Columbus, Ohio. Look inside the figure flaps to learn about the Chickenfoot Woman, the Vegetable Man, the Rag Man, and all the others who were merchants on Mount Vernon Avenue at that time.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B, C

The Story of Money

Betsy and Giulio Maestro (1995). Harper Trophy

This book takes a historical look at the "evolution" of money from the early days of bartering to the present use of credit cards. It also explores the many forms that money has taken across many parts of the world.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B

Something Special for Me

Vera B. Williams (1983). Greenwillow

Rosa's mother and grandmother decide to let her shop for her own birthday present from the jar of money they had saved. Rosa had trouble deciding what to buy – she wants something special that everyone can enjoy. Finally, she buys a new chair big enough to hold them all.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A

Uncle Jed's Barbershop

Margaree King Mitchell (1993). Scholastic Inc. James Ransome, illustrator.

Sarah Jean's Uncle Jed is the only African-American barber in the county. He dreams of opening his own barbershop some day. When Sarah Jean is in need of an operation, Uncle Jed loans her parents money from his "barbershop" savings. Then, when the bank fails during the Great Depression all of Uncle Jed's savings are gone for a second time. Finally, on his 79th birthday, Uncle Jed opens his own barbershop. The life of a poor southern African-American family in the first half of the twentieth century is recalled by the author.

K-2 A, B, C

3-5 A, B, C

Warm as Wool

Scott Russell Sanders (1992). Bradbury Press. Helen Cogancherry, illustrator.

The hardships of one of the early pioneer families to Northwest Ohio are told in this story. A vivid picture of life on the frontier is described as well as the strength of a mother's love determined to keep her family warm. In the process, she buys sheep, works to keep them safe, shears wool, and goes through each of the steps to create warm clothing for her family.

K-2 A, B, C 3-5 A, B