

 **BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET**

Budgeting for fun in a rural setting

Going on trips and attending special events are a lot of fun – but not if they lead to financial challenges.

Careful planning and budgeting can help you make sure you have enough money for special trips and events and still meet your financial obligations. Planning and budgeting are important tools for managing your money.

Instructions

- 1 Read the case study.
- 2 Working with a partner, follow the steps below to build a budget for the trip.
- 3 Answer the reflection questions.

Case study

You and your friend want to take a trip to a town 100 miles away and stay overnight. You have each saved \$250 to cover getting there, paying for an event or activity, staying overnight, and food. You agree that it's important to combine your savings and stick to a planned budget to cover your costs. Now it's time to sit down together and build a budget for this exciting adventure.



Building a budget

Step 1. Review potential costs

Review example costs associated with your two-day trip. Choose how you'll spend your \$500 budget, making sure to consider the activity, meals, transportation, hotel, and other costs.

Sample activity costs

- Music festival: \$55 each
- Fishing trip or whitewater rafting: \$60 each
- Sporting event: \$20 each
- Amusement park or fair: \$50 each

Sample transportation costs

- Drive a car: \$32 gas (total for both days)
- Take a bus: \$45 each round-trip

Sample lodging costs

- One night in a hotel: \$90
- One night at a campground: \$15

Sample meal costs

- Grab-and-go breakfast: \$5 each
- Sit-down breakfast: \$10 each
- Grab-and-go lunch: \$10 each
- Sit-down lunch: \$15 each
- Grab-and-go dinner at a lower-cost restaurant: \$10 each
- Sit-down dinner at a higher-cost restaurant: \$24 each

Other possible costs

- Souvenirs or gifts: \$25 each
- Drinks or snacks at the venue: \$15 each
- Emergency cash: \$20 each

Step 2. Create a budget

Show how you'll allocate your \$500 budget to cover all expenses. Remember, this is your trip, so your budget should reflect what is most important to you.

For each item, describe what choice you made, how much it costs, and why you made the choice.

Item	Choice	Price	Reason for choice
Event or activity			
Transportation costs			
Breakfast day 1			
Lunch day 1			
Dinner day 1			
Hotel or campground			
Breakfast day 2			
Lunch day 2			
Dinner day 2			
Other expenses			
Total cost for the trip			

Reflection questions

If you completed your budget alone, how did you decide what to include and what not to purchase during your trip?

If you worked with a partner, how did you decide together what to include in your budget and what not to purchase during your trip? What compromises did you each have to make?

Do you think you'll build a budget for a trip or major event in the future? Why or why not?