

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET

Choosing the best instrument for you

Imagine that you'll soon start music lessons and you've won a small grant of \$500 to purchase the instrument you'll play (e.g., guitar, trombone, flute, drums, etc.).

You want to figure out which brand offers the best deals on the features you need and want. Practicing comparison shopping can help you to make an informed buying decision.

Instructions

- 1 Record musical instrument features that are most important to you.
- 2 Research musical instruments from two recognized brands that meet your requirements (be sure to compare similar instruments) and record your findings in the "Comparison shopping tool" handout.
- 3 Analyze the information and choose the best instrument for your needs, wants, and budget.
- 4 Answer the reflection questions.



1. Features you want in a musical instrument

Record the musical instrument features that are most important to you.
(Are you only looking for a new instrument, or is used acceptable? Do you want an instrument that comes with a carrying case? Is a warranty important? Does the instrument need to plug into an amplifier?)

2. Research and record your findings

Research and compare two instruments. Be sure to compare each instrument using the features you brainstormed above. Use the "Comparison shopping tool" handout to record your findings.

Which two instruments are you comparing?

3. Determine the best instrument for you

Use the "Comparison shopping tool" handout to decide which instrument is best for you based on your needs, wants, and budget. Which instrument did you decide on? How much will it cost?

Reflection questions

1. Was your final choice different from what you thought it might be before comparison shopping? Why do you think it was different?

2. How does comparison shopping help you make more informed buying choices?

3. How could you use comparison shopping in your own life?