

Cell Phone Calculator Lesson Plan

Content Area: Math/Teen Living

Grade Levels: 6–8

Features and Materials: Calculator function, computer with Internet access, sample printed restaurant menus

ISTE Standards: Research and Information Fluency (3b)

21st Century Skills: Communication, collaboration, critical thinking

Activity Overview

In this activity, students will be given a virtual allowance of \$300 to shop online. Students will be asked to visit websites of retail stores and decide on what merchandise to spend their money. The students will also be given virtual discount coupons to use for shopping. Students will participate in a class contest to spend all of their money and come closest to \$300 without going over (including their discounted items and taxes).

Procedure

1. Place students in groups of two. Tell students they have \$300 to spend. Tell students that they also have three discount coupons: one for 10% off of one item, one for 15% off of one item, and one for 25 percent off of one item.
2. Ask students to shop online to spend their money. Students should record the cost of the items they purchase in their cell phone notepads. Ask students to use their calculators to find the total of their purchases including taxes and after discounts.
3. Ask students to create a receipt for their purchases as an assessment of the activity.
4. The group that comes the closest to spending the \$300 wins the shopping challenge.

Extension

1. Ask students to purchase a car and calculate interest over time.
2. Ask students to use a credit card to make the purchase and add 18% (annual interest rate) to the total bill. Engage students in a discussion about the cost of credit and annual interest rates.