

The Pumpkin Market

Grade Level: Kindergarten

Duration: 30-45 minutes

Economic Concept: Producers & Consumers

Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum (VSC)

Economics Standard: Students will identify the economic principles and processes that are helpful to producers and consumers when making good decisions. (PreK-3)

Indicator:

- 4.A.1.a Identify that goods are things that people make or grow (Grade K)
- 4.B.1.a Describe how buyers and sellers make exchanges at the market (Grade K)

Lesson Objectives:

- Students will be able to identify producers and consumers.
- Students will be able to participate in a dramatic play activity that illustrates the concepts of producers and consumers.

Economic Vocabulary:

Consumer- Person who uses and buys things (buyer)

Goods - physically tangible objects that can be used to satisfy economic wants, including but not limited to food, shoes, cars, houses, books and furniture.

Market - an arrangement wherein buyers and sellers can exchange resources, goods, and services. A market is said to exist whenever or wherever a buyer and seller enter into an exchange.

Producer- Person who makes and sells things (seller)

Scarcity- Not enough of something you want

Materials:

For Teacher:

Teacher Resource Sheet #1, "The Pumpkin Market"

For Students:

5 shopping bags

20 paper pumpkins

"Pumpkins for Sale" Sign

Student Resource Sheet #1, "Assessment: The Pumpkin Market"

Lesson Development:

1. **Motivation:** Display a pumpkin or a picture of a pumpkin. Ask: What is this? Where can you get it? Discuss.
2. Tell students that they are going to be acting out a scene in which people buy and sell pumpkins.
3. Assign 5 students to be farmers and 5 students to be shoppers. Place the farmers at the front of the room and tell them to pretend they have rakes, hoes, seeds and

other items necessary to grow pumpkins. Line the shoppers up at the back of the room.

4. Use Teacher Resource Sheet #1, "The Pumpkin Market" to help students act out the process of producing and consuming pumpkins. After students have acted the skit out once, you may wish to have them reverse roles and complete the activity again.
5. **Assessment:** Distribute Student Resource Sheet #1, "Assessment: The Pumpkin Market." Work with students to complete.

The Pumpkin Market

Farmers: *Farmers should pretend to have rakes, hoes, seeds, and hoses for planting and caring for the pumpkins that are growing. They should pantomime what is being said.*

Teacher: Watch the farmers getting the soil ready for planting the pumpkin seeds. They have to hoe it and rake it smooth so that the little seeds will have a chance to sprout and grow.

Now look. The farmers are planting the seed and patting the soil gently over the seeds. The seeds need water and warm sunshine to help the plants grow.

Farmers: Producers, producers, producers.

Teacher: Just look at the farmers. They are the producers. They are producing pumpkins. Some years the pumpkins don't grow so well. Maybe there wasn't enough rain. Maybe insects ate the plants. When the farmers can't grow or produce enough pumpkins, pumpkins are scarce- there is a scarcity of pumpkins.

This year the weather was perfect for pumpkin growing and pumpkins have grown all over the patch.

Teacher should scatter paper pumpkins all around the floor where the farmers have been working.

The farmers will have a surplus of pumpkins- more pumpkins than they can use at their homes. They will sell the extras and earn some money. Look, here is the sign that says PUMPKINS FOR SALE.

Teacher should prop up the PUMPKINS FOR SALE sign.

Here come the shoppers with their shopping bags. They want pumpkins for their families to make jack-o-lanterns and to use for fall decorations. The shoppers are the consumers.

Shoppers: Consumers, consumers, consumers.

Teacher: Farmers all say, "Welcome to my pumpkin store! Please buy pumpkins."

Farmers: Please buy my pumpkins.

Shoppers: Consumers, consumers, consumers.

Shoppers should pick up pumpkins, pretend to pay the farmers and put the pumpkins into their shopping bags.

Teacher: Now the shoppers have all the pumpkins they need for Halloween and fall decorating and the farmers have been paid for their pumpkins. The shoppers wave good-bye to the farmers and walk off with their bags of pumpkins. They say “See you next year at pumpkin time!”

Assessment: The Pumpkin Market

Directions: Match the word with its picture.



Producer



Consumer