



INSTRUCTION GUIDE

Teach your students the importance of saving and budgeting with this fun Marvel comic book.





AVENGERS // SAVING THE DAY

OVERVIEW

In this lesson based around the Practical Money Skills comic book, Saving the Day, students will:

- Learn several basic banking concepts
- Master the importance of budgeting and saving
- Practice balancing their own personal budgets

Grade level: 2nd – 7th

Time allotment: 60 + minutes

Learning objectives:

Students will

- Explain basic banking and budgeting terms
- Summarize the reasons for budgeting and saving
- Develop a personal budget
- Balance a personal budget

Course: Math/Social Studies/Language Arts

Core competencies: Earn/Save/Spend

Key vocabulary: Bank, banking, budget, credit card, currency, debit card, expenses, investment, interest, loans, prepaid card, savings account

Materials:

- Free Saving the Day comic book is available digitally, as a pdf and in print (via online order) at www.practicalmoneyskills.com/avengers
- Budget Blaster worksheet on the back cover of the comic



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INSTRUCTION

Understanding the importance of maintaining a personal budget and building savings is a critical financial literacy skill for elementary and middle school students. This educational comic book introduces students to the concepts of banking, budgeting and saving in a fun and engaging way. They will learn important concepts and terminology via the story and by utilizing the glossary of financial terms and budgeting worksheet.

WARM UP (10 mins.)

Open your discussion by asking students how many of them know what a budget is, what can happen when you don't have a budget and why they think saving is important. Then explain that saving is easier when you set short-term (one-month) savings goals (like buying a video game) and long-term (six-month) savings goals (like buying a bicycle).

Complete the warm up by having students write down a short-term goal and a long-term goal of their own, and about how much they think each would cost.

TEACHING KEY CONCEPTS (10 mins.)

Why create a budget?

- To have a plan for your spending
- To ensure you spend within your means
- To earmark money for savings
- To help you reach financial goals

Why is saving important?

- Allows you to meet specific short-term goals (e.g., buying a new bicycle)
- Prepares you for unexpected expenses (e.g., bicycle repair costs)
- Helps you plan for a future goal (e.g., saving for a car)

REVIEWING FINANCIAL TERMS (10 mins.)

Have students take turns reading the financial definitions in the inside back cover of the comic. Challenge them to find those terms while reading the comic.



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INSTRUCTION (continued)

READING THE COMIC (25 mins.)

Have students open their printed comics or gather around classroom computers to view digital copies of the comic book. Students can take turns reading pages or portions of the comic.

DISCUSSION (5 mins.)

After reading the comic, pose the following discussion questions to the class (possible responses are included below):

Question 1: What does Nova learn about managing his money in *Saving the Day*?

- *The importance of creating and maintaining a budget.*
- *That saving is critical so you can meet financial goals and prepare for the unexpected.*

Question 2: Nova's goal is a gift for his sister. What is a savings goal you have? Volunteer to share a savings goal you have with the class and discuss how much it might cost and how long it might take you to save for this goal.

- *New video game system (\$300 over 6 months), new bike (\$250 over 4 months), etc*

End the discussion by encouraging students to talk with their families about their own values around budgeting and saving.



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EXTRA CREDIT

BUDGET BLASTER EXERCISE (20 mins.)

Have students turn to the Budget Blaster worksheet on the back cover of the comic, or print copies of the pdf for each student. Let them know they will be creating budgets of their own.

Next, read aloud the instructions at the top of the worksheet and review each item students will be recording. Explain that the goal of a budget is to have a greater income than you have expenses so you can set aside money for saving. If they find that their expenses are greater than or equal to their incomes, they will need to lower their expenses.

Then have students complete the worksheet individually. Finally, review their worksheets to ensure they've been completed correctly, congratulate them on completing their own personal budgets, and encourage them to use their new budgets as a guideline for spending.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Access these additional Practical Money Skills resources for teaching financial literacy in your classroom:

Lesson plans: www.practicalmoneyskills.com/lessonplans

Games: www.practicalmoneyskills.com/games