NO PREP

Budgeting for Halloween

Includes: Student reading, case study, differentiated questions, teacher key

Name: Period: Date:

Budgeting for Halloween

Spending During the Holiday Season

Halloween is one of the most exciting times of the year for students and families, but it can also be one of the most expensive. Americans spend billions on candy, costumes, decorations, and parties every October. While these purchases can be fun, they also highlight the importance of budgeting. A budget is a plan for how to use money wisely, making sure expenses do not exceed income. Without budgeting, families may overspend and face financial stress after the holiday excitement is over. Budgeting for Halloween teaches valuable lessons in financial literacy. By setting spending limits for costumes, candy, and decorations, individuals can enjoy the holiday without debt. Students learning how to make a simple budget gain lifelong skills, preparing them for future financial responsibilities. The key is to balance celebration with responsibility—spending enough to enjoy the holiday while avoiding unnecessary costs.

Planning Ahead and Making Choices

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Planning Ahead and Making Choices

Creating a Halloween budget begins with planning. Families often estimate how many trick-or-treaters will visit, which helps them decide how much candy to buy. Others may choose between buying a new costume or reusing or making one at home. Parties and decorations add more decisions. By prioritizing what matters most, households can enjoy Halloween without overspending. A good strategy is the 50/30/20 rule, which suggests dividing income into categories: 50% for needs, 30% for wants, and 20% for savings. While Halloween spending falls under "wants," it can be planned without harming financial stability. Simple decisions (like buying candy in bulk, sharing party costs with friends, or reusing decorations) help make budgets stretch further.

The Bigger Picture of Budgeting

Halloween budgeting is more than just about candy and costumes. It is a lesson in financial responsibility, teaching students that money management applies to all aspects of life. Whether saving for a big purchase, planning a vacation, or preparing for emergencies, the skills learned from making a simple holiday budget can carry over into adulthood. By approaching spending with awareness, students can enjoy traditions while also preparing for their financial futures.

Key Information: Table: Sample Halloween Budget (Family of Four)

Category	Planned Spending	Tips to Save
Candy	$40	Buy in bulk, avoid last-minute shopping
Costumes	$100	Reuse, DIY, or swap with friends
Decorations	$50	Reuse from past years, buy post-Halloween sales
Party supplies	$60	Share costs with guests
Total	$250	Stay within set budget

Case Study: How to Plan a Holiday on a Budget

Consider the example of a high school student named Maya, who wanted to host a Halloween party with her friends. She set a budget of $100, covering snacks, decorations, and games. Instead of buying new decorations, Maya borrowed old ones from her family and made DIY crafts with friends. For snacks, she chose affordable bulk items rather than individual specialty candies. She also asked each guest to bring a small treat, which reduced her costs. By sticking to her budget, Maya not only avoided overspending but also learned how planning can make celebrations more creative and less stressful. This case shows how financial literacy can apply to real life. Maya's choices reflect smart decision-making: prioritizing needs, finding alternatives, and sharing responsibilities. Budgeting did not take away from her fun—it actually made the event more memorable because she and her friends worked together to create it. Learning to budget during holidays like Halloween helps students build habits they will use throughout their lives, from managing college expenses to planning future family celebrations.

1. What strategies did Maya use to keep her Halloween party under budget?

_____

_____

2. How does budgeting encourage creativity and teamwork?

_____

_____

Multiple Choice

1. What is the main purpose of a budget?

    a) To borrow money to spend beyond your income

    b) To encourage overspending

    c) To keep expenses within income

    d) To increase holiday spending

2. According to the 50/30/20 rule, what percentage is suggested for savings?

a) 20%

b) 10%

c) 30%

d) 50%

3. According to the reading, what is one way to make a Halloween candy budget stretch further?

a) Choose individual specialty candies for variety

b) Borrow money to cover the candy budget

c) Shop for candy at the last minute without planning ahead

d) Buy candy in bulk instead of individual specialty packs

Matching

Write the letter of the correct definition on the line next to each term.

Term	Definition
1. ___ Candy	A) Ensure expenses do not exceed income
2. ___ Costumes	B) Buy in bulk before the holiday
3. ___ Decorations	C) Share food and supply costs with guests
4. ___ Party supplies	D) Reuse from past years or DIY crafts
5. ___ Budget total	E) Swap outfits with friends

Fill-in-the-Blank

1. Halloween spending is usually considered part of the _____ category in the 50/30/20 rule.

2. A family that spends $40 on candy, $100 on costumes, $50 on decorations, and $60 on party supplies spends a total of _____.

3. One way to stretch a budget is to buy items _____, rather than waiting until the last minute.

Short Answer

Answer each question in 2-4 complete sentences.

1. Why might buying in bulk help families save money on Halloween candy?

2. How does the 50/30/20 rule help students think about their money?

3. Why do holidays like Halloween provide good opportunities to practice budgeting skills?