THE VACATION OF A LIFETIME
GRADE LEVEL 10-12

“TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR FINANCES”

Materials provided by: Deani Goyette, Forsyth High School, Forsyth, Montana
Time to complete: 180 minutes (dependent upon class size)

CONTENT STANDARD
Family and Consumer Science Standards: 1.1.6, 1.2.8, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.7, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.5.1, 2.5.4, 2.6.1, 2.6.2, 3.5.7
National Council on Economic Education Teaching Standards: 3
National Standards for Business Education
- Career Development:
- Economics:
- Personal Finance: III.1, III.2

OBJECTIVES
Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to:
- Use the internet to research vacation costs.
- Plan for a vacation.
- Budget for a vacation.

INTRODUCTION
Everyone needs a vacation at some time. Teenagers often have big dreams of leaving their hometowns and schools far behind. For this project, students will have the opportunity to do just that. Students will research a vacation destination within the United States and what it takes to get from here to there. Each student will have a budget of $1,500 to pay for transportation, sightseeing, souvenir shopping, lodging, etc. Students may complete the project on their own or in a group of two.

After the destination has been chosen and approved, the research begins. Allow two to three class days (approximately 90 minutes) for research. Students should find the required information and complete the worksheet provided to document the research process. Students must remember to site all sources in a bibliography at the end of the project.

For this project, students will document the results of their researching efforts by creating a digital, multimedia travel presentation using PowerPoint or other presentation programs such as HyperStudio or AppleWorks. This assignment can be used after teaching basic budgeting lessons.

In this lesson, students have the opportunity to plan a vacation with a budget of $1,500. They research a vacation destination within the United States and what it takes to get from here to there. Students use the researched information to give a presentation to the class.

BODY
1. Ask students the following question:
   a. If you could go anywhere in the United States on vacation, where would you go?
2. Tell the students they will be planning a vacation on a budget of $1,500 (per person). They can do it singly or in a group of two.
   a. If in a group of two, add the allotted $1,500 for each student together for a total of $3,000 to plan the vacation. Each student or group of students must determine a destination to which they would like to travel.
   b. Students can choose anywhere in the United States and the length of the vacation (keeping within the budget).
   c. Students will present their planned vacation to the class with a PowerPoint Presentation.
3. Hand out the Student Information Sheet – Planning a Vacation 1.15.6.F1.
   a. Students will research the required information listed on the information sheet to plan the vacation.
   b. The class will discuss the list of required elements using the Student Information Sheet – Planning a Vacation 1.15.6.F1.
   c. The websites listed are suggestions only. Other sites may be used.
   d. This handout will also be used as the guide for completing the PowerPoint Presentation.
   a. Students will document the results of their research for the required elements on the budget worksheet.
5. Tell the students they will be creating a PowerPoint presentation based on the vacation research to present to the class.
   a. Students will use the Student Information Sheet – Planning a Vacation handout 1.15.6.F1 as a guide for the required elements of the presentation.
6. Hand out the Vacation Planning Presentation Rubric 1.15.6.F1 and discuss the qualities of a good PowerPoint presentation including:
   a. Limiting text.
   b. Choosing text for its readability and size.
   c. Maintaining a consistent, non-distracting background.
   d. Limiting sounds.
   e. Resisting the temptation to reduce type sizes to make things fit.
   f. Keeping text parallel.
   g. Using bullets with caution.
   h. Being consistent.
   i. Running spell check.
   j. Rehearsing timing and transitions.
   k. Being cautious in the use of sounds. They, too, should be carefully rehearsed.
7. Each slide must:
   a. Be attractively presented.
   b. Contain a combination of text and graphics.
   c. Have a background or border.
8. Students will be expected to share the finished presentation with the class. Presentation elements include:
   a. Duration—five-seven minutes.
   b. Number of slides—varies from 16 and 22.
   c. Slide order—with the exception of the introduction, conclusion, and sources, slides/pages may be arranged in an order different from the outline.
   d. Presentation length—if the vacation is planned for more than one person, the whole group must give the presentation in the same amount of time (5-7 minutes).
      i. The 5-7 minutes must be split up evenly among the group members.
9. For the rest of class, let students work on the research. It may take anywhere from one to three class periods for the students to finish the research. Class time may also be needed for the students to work on the PowerPoint presentation. The teacher may decide how much class time will be allowed.
**CONCLUSION**

Students will give the presentations in class. After the presentations, hold a discussion with the following questions:

- What vacation spots sounded the best?
- What was the most surprising thing about researching a vacation?
- What could happen unexpectedly during a vacation to change your budget?
- How has the Internet impacted vacation planning?
- Could you find all of the information necessary by using the Internet?
  - Yes – How do you think this has affected the tourism industry?
  - No – Where else did you have to look?

**ASSESSMENT**

Students will be graded on the Vacation of a Lifetime Budget 1.15.6.A1 and on the presentation using the Vacation Planning Presentation Rubric 1.15.6.B1.

**MATERIALS**

- The Vacation of a Lifetime worksheet – 1.15.6.A1
- Vacation Planning Presentation Rubric – 1.15.6.B1
- Student Information Sheet – Planning a Vacation – 1.15.6.F1
- Computers with internet access and presentation program
- Computer with projector or connection to a TV for entire class viewing

**RESOURCES**

Practical Money Skills
http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/english/wizards/

- This site now hosts a series of tools that will help plan spending for gift giving, travel, and entertainment. There is also a downloadable budget tool that will help keep budgets organized year-round. One wizard calculates total costs based on student input for flying/driving, lodging, eating, and extras.
The Vacation of a Lifetime

Directions: Answer the following questions based upon the research for the vacation. Remember to stay within your budget of $1,500 or $3,000.

1. Vacation destination (1 point):

2. Why are you traveling to this place (2 points)?

3. Number of people vacation is planned for (1 point):

4. Budget amount (1 point):

Dates
5. Dates for the trip (1 point):

6. How many days and nights (1 point)?

Weather
7. Characteristics of typical weather (3 points):

8. Source (1 point):

9. For the climate you are vacationing to, what 3 specific items will you need to pack (3 points)?

10. Do you already own these items? If not, estimate how much this will cost to be figured into the budget (2 points).

Distance
11. Number of miles (round trip) (1 point):

12. Source (1 point):
Transportation

13. Fill in the chart according to the transportation option (24 points):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transportation Option</th>
<th>Price per ticket/rental</th>
<th>Cost to get to nearest station</th>
<th>Dates/Times Convenient (yes or no)</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airplane</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Train</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vehicle</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

14. Choose and record the mode of transportation you will use to travel round trip to the vacation destination, figure the total cost and explain why (4 points).

Food

15. How much do you have budgeted for food for each day (per person) (1 point)?

16. Fill in the chart with the specific information about restaurants while on vacation (18 points).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Restaurant</th>
<th>Breakfast Price Range</th>
<th>Lunch Price Range</th>
<th>Dinner Price Range</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

17. Average the price range of breakfast, lunch, and dinner from the chart (3 points).

18. Choose one restaurant, plan an evening meal, and calculate the total cost. Include all food (appetizers, entrées, desserts, and drinks), tips, and applicable tax (5 points).
Lodging

19. Fill in the chart with possible lodging options (21 points):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lodging Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Special Amenities</th>
<th>Price Per Night</th>
<th>Price of Taxes &amp; Fees</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

20. Which lodging did you choose (1 point)?

21. Why did you choose it (2 points)?

22. What was the total cost (1 point)?

Transportation During Vacation

23. Fill in the chart with transportation options for during the vacation (24 points):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Accessibility</th>
<th>Other Fees? (tips, taxes, etc.)</th>
<th>Total Estimated Cost</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

24. Which option(s) seem useable (2 points)?

25. Give an estimate the total cost for all chosen options (1 point).
Itinerary

26. Fill in the chart with possible activities for the vacation (20 points):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

27. Which activities would you choose and how much would the total cost be (3 points)?

Conclusion

28. Total cost of trip (1 point):

29. Did you stay within the budget? What was the dollar difference (2 points)?

30. If you under-budgeted, what will happen with the extra money (2 points)?

31. If you over-budgeted, what changes did you have to make (2 points)?

32. After researching the vacation destination, would you still like to go there? Why or why not (2 points)?
## Vacation Planning Presentation Rubric

**Name:**

**Date:**

**Directions:**

1. Students will prepare and present a slide show presentation 5 – 7 minutes long based upon the Planning a Vacation Worksheet with 16 to 22 slides. Slide order may vary except the introduction must be first and the conclusion and sources last.
2. Grading will be based upon the following rubric.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Exemplary - 3</th>
<th>Satisfactory - 2</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory - 1</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Makes excellent use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. to enhance the presentation.</td>
<td>Makes use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. but occasionally these distract from the presentation content.</td>
<td>Use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. but these distract from the presentation content.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanics</td>
<td>No misspellings or grammatical errors.</td>
<td>Three or fewer misspellings and/or mechanical errors.</td>
<td>More than three errors in spelling or grammar.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Introduction is first, conclusion and sources are last, and content is well-organized with headings or bulleted lists.</td>
<td>One of the previous elements is missing or content organization appears flawed.</td>
<td>All of the previous elements are missing and/or organization is no present.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements</td>
<td>All requirements are met with detailed information.</td>
<td>Missing 1-2 required elements or information is minimally detailed.</td>
<td>Missing more than 2 required elements and/or the information is not detailed.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>Interesting, well-rehearsed with smooth delivery that holds audience attention.</td>
<td>Delivery not smooth or not able to hold attention most of the time.</td>
<td>Delivery not smooth and audience attention lost.</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Total Points Earned    |                      |                  |                    |
| Total Points Available | 45                   |                  |                    |
| Percentage             |                      |                  |                    |
Student Information Sheet
Planning a Vacation

Directions: The following is a list of required elements for the vacation to anywhere in the United States to be included in the presentation. The Web sites are suggestions. Other sites may be used.

Slide 1: **Introduction:** Who are you? Where are you going? Why did you choose this destination?

Slide 2: **Distance:** Record the total number of miles traveled (round trip). www.mapquest.com

Slide 3: **When:** Record the dates for your trip (length of trip).

Slide 4: **Weather:** Research and record the weather typically found at your destination, so that you can pack accordingly. www.weather.com

Slides 5-7: **Transportation:** Research the price of traveling via different modes:
- Airplane: www.travelocity.com (or the airline of your choice)
- Bus: www.greyhound.com
- Train: www.amtrak.com
- Vehicle

Chose one mode, explain why, and figure the total cost. *Remember to include the price of gas to get you to the nearest airport, bus, or train station. Use an average gasoline price of $2.53 and 25 mpg.

Slides 8-9: **Food:** Research the restaurants available at your destination. Specify how much you plan to budget each day for meals. List three restaurants available and the general price range for a meal. Choose one of the restaurants and calculate the price of one evening meal including food, drink, tip, and applicable tax.

*When thinking about how much money to budget for meals each day, consider:
- Are any meals included with lodging (continental breakfast, meal vouchers, etc.)?
- Will you be buying groceries and cooking your own dinner if staying at a condo?
- What price range of meals are you budgeting for ($5-10, $10-15, $15+)?
- Dinner is usually the most expensive meal, breakfast the cheapest, and lunch in the middle price range.
- Are you eating at sit-down restaurants, cafés, or fast-food restaurants?

Slides 10-11: **Lodging:** Research and record three hotels, motels, or inns at which you could stay. Include name, location, special amenities, and price per night including tax. Chose one place, explain why, and figure the total cost.

Slide 12: **Transportation During Vacation:** How will you travel from site to site?
Research and record the options and prices. State which options you will use and estimate the total cost.

Slides 13-17  **Itinerary:** How will you spend the 24 hours in each day? Include sightseeing, events, shopping, etc. Estimate a minimum of $150 for souvenirs. Describe what you purchased, where you visited, etc.

Slide 18:  **Conclusion:** Record the total cost of your trip. Did you stay within the budget? If you over-budgeted, what changes did you have to make? After researching the vacation destination, would you still like to go there? Why or why not?

Slides 19-20:  Cite the sources.