Week 1 - Needs and Wants

Pre-K – Grade 5 Education

April is National Financial Literacy Month, which is designed to create awareness about the importance of personal financial education. Over the next 4 weeks, we will be exploring different financial education topics with specific age-minded activities and links, designed for your use at home.

This week's topic is Needs and Wants. The activities provided in this document will allow children to explore the difference between a need and a want. Children should understand that people often want much more than they need. As a result, people must make choices about what they truly need and what they can afford.

Included in this document are fun ideas, games and activities that you can do with your children to teach them the difference between a need and a want.

Need: Something that is required to live (food, water, shelter, clothing)

Want: Something we would like to have (bike, iPad, candy etc.)

Basket Collection

Instructions: Find a basket or something similar around the house that kids can use to collect items. Task them with collecting items that they think are both needs and wants. Go through each item that they added to the basket and talk about whether that item is a need or a want. You could also make a Need and Want flashcard (or have your children make them) and ask your child to hold up the appropriate card to go along with the collected items.

Needs & Wants Poster

Instructions: Find old magazines around the house that you don't mind your children cutting up. Create a poster with a line down the center and label the right side of the poster Needs and the left side of the poster Wants. Have your children cut out pictures of needs and wants and then glue or tape them in the appropriate column. The completed poster can be used to discuss the differences between a need and a want.

Name _____

I Can Sort Needs and WANTS.

NEEDS	WANTS

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Name _____

Needs and Wants

Directions: Circle the best answer for each question.

1. Which picture shows a want?

a.

b.

c.

d.

2. Which picture shows a need?

a.

b.

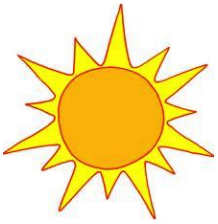
c.

d.

2. Which picture shows a need?

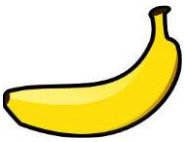
a.

b.

c. 

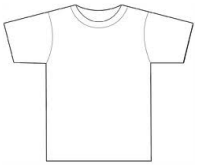
d.

4. Which picture shows a want?

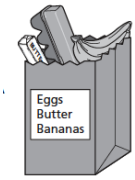
a. 

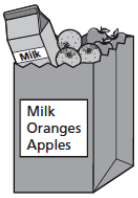
b.

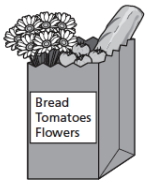
c.

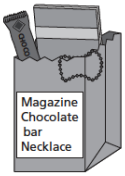
d. 

5. Ronda went shopping. Everything she bought was a want. Which of these bags is Ronda's?

a. 

b. 

c. 

d. 

6. Jimmy is buying a birthday present for his dad. He wants to give him something that is a need. Which of the following should he buy for his dad?

a. a new pair of shoes
b. a power drill
c. golf balls
d. a new baseball hat

7. Dylan is packing his lunch for school. He needs something in his bag that is a want. Which of the following should he put in his lunchbox?

a. an apple
b. an orange
c. chocolate chip cookies
d. water

8. Ally went shopping. Everything she bought was a need. Which of the following lists the items she bought?

a. brownies, chips, and eggs
b. cheese, bread, and ice cream
c. chips, eegs, and cheese
d. eggs, bread, and cheese

Directions: Look at the chart below, and then answer the questions.

NEEDS	WANTS

9. Which object below belongs in the NEEDS column?

a.

b.

c.

d.

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences, using correct punctuation and caiptalization.

10. What are four items you *need*? Why do you need these things?

_____

_____

11. Pretend you are going on a trip to the beach. What are four things you *want* to pack?

_____

_____

Name _____ ____/4

Needs and Wants: Worksheet #1

Humans need water, air, food, and shelter.

BIG IDEA:

1. ► A **need** is something people must have to stay alive.

2. ► A **want** is something people would like to have, but it is not necessary to stay alive.

A. Directions: Write the word that **best** completes each statement.

1. A _____ is something you'd like to have, but not required to stay alive.

2. A _____ is something you must have to stay alive.

BIG IDEA:

1. ► Examples of human **needs**: *food, water, and shelter*.

2. ► Examples of human **wants**: *toys, candy, name-brand jeans, or powerboat*.

B. Directions: Write the word that **best** completes each statement.

1. Toys, candy, name brand clothing, or fancy cars are all examples of human

_____.

2. Food, water, shelter, clothing, and air (oxygen) are all examples of human

_____.

◊ ◊ ◊

+ **Think Ahead**: What are two things you *want* but do **not** *need*? _____

_____

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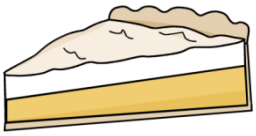
Name _____ _____/18

Needs and Wants: Worksheet # 2

Humans have many different wants.

A. Directions: Circle three (3) more words or terms that could be best described as ***needs***. An example is done for you.

1. groceries
2. computer
3. air
4. book
5. water
6. cupcake
7. house
8. potato chips
9. shampoo



B. Directions: Circle five (5) words or terms that could be best described as ***wants***.

1. water
2. motorcycle
3. pizza
4. vegetables
5. ice cream
6. air
7. crayons
8. home
9. soda

C. Directions: Circle one word or term **in each row** below that **best** describes a human ***need***.

1.	Coca-Cola	water	milk	lemonade
2.	house	castle	garage	football
3.	dessert	pepper	sandwich	onion
4.	skis	necklace	suitcase	shirt
5.	flower	fireplace	oxygen	chair

D. Directions: Circle one word or term **in each row** below that **best** describes a human ***want***.

1.	donut	house	air	water
2.	air	diamond ring	lunch	cabin
3.	water	apartment	candy bar	fruit
4.	pudding	shirt	breakfast	air
5.	house	air	cell phone	dinner

+ **Think Ahead**: Which of these are *needs*: medical care, friendship, and sleep?

_____

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Name ____ANSWER KEY_____ ____/4

Needs and Wants: Worksheet #1

Humans need water, air, food, and shelter.

BIG IDEA:

1. ► A **need** is something people must have to stay alive.

2. ► A **want** is something people would like to have, but it is not necessary to stay alive.

A. Directions: Write the word that **best** completes each statement.

1. A _____want_____ is something you'd like to have, but not required to stay alive.

2. A _____need_____ is something you must have to stay alive.

BIG IDEA:

1. ► Examples of human **needs**: *food, water, and shelter*.

2. ► Examples of human **wants**: *toys, candy, name-brand jeans, or powerboat*.

B. Directions: Write the word that **best** completes each statement.

1. Toys, candy, name brand clothing, or fancy cars are all examples of human _____wants_____.

2. Food, water, shelter, clothing, and air (oxygen) are all examples of human _____needs_____.

◊ ◊ ◊

+ **Think Ahead**: What are two things you *want* but do **not** *need*? _Possible answers include: book, candy, jewelry, video game, etc.___

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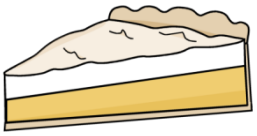
Name ____ANSWER KEY_____ ____/18

Needs and Wants: Worksheet # 2

Humans have many different wants.

A. Directions: Circle three (3) more words or terms that could be best described as ***needs***. An example is done for you.

1. (groceries)
2. computer
3. **air**
4. book
5. **water**
6. cupcake
7. **house**
8. potato chips
9. shampoo



B. Directions: Circle five (5) words or terms that could be best described as ***wants***.

1. water
2. **motorcycle**
3. **pizza**
4. vegetables
5. **ice cream**
6. air
7. **crayons**
8. home
9. **soda**

C. Directions: Circle one word or term in each row below that **best** describes a human ***need***.

1.	Coca-Cola	**water**	milk	lemonade
2.	**house**	castle	garage	football
3.	dessert	pepper	**sandwich**	onion
4.	skis	necklace	suitcase	**shirt**
5.	flower	fireplace	**oxygen**	chair

D. Directions: Circle one word or term in each row below that **best** describes a human ***want***.

1.	**donut**	house	air	water
2.	air	**diamond ring**	lunch	cabin
3.	water	apartment	**candy bar**	fruit
4.	**pudding**	shirt	breakfast	air
5.	house	air	**cell phone**	dinner

+ Think Ahead: Which of these are *needs*: medical care, friendship, and sleep?

► Humans must have **sleep**, however medical care and friendship could be considered either a need or want. If time permits, encourage class discussion.

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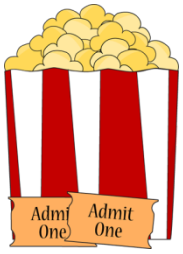
Name _____

Directions: Read the following paragraph. Each term written in **bold** in the paragraph below will also be found in the word search. Find each word in the word search, then circle each word in both the word search AND in the paragraph below. Each term is numbered. There are **22** words altogether.



1-**Economics**: Overview

A 2-**need** is something an organism must have in order to survive. For example, people need 3-**air**, 4-**food**, 5-**water**, and 6-**shelter**.

A 7-**want** is something someone would like to have. For example, 8-**cell phones**, games, and 9-**computers** are all wants. People can survive without them.

Many people have 10-**jobs** and 11-**work** to earn 12-**money** in order to meet their needs and wants. People use their money to buy goods and services.

13-**Goods** are things that are 14-**made** or grown. Goods are usually things that can be seen or touched such as a baseball, apple, or pencil.

A 15-**service** is work that someone does for someone else. For example, a pet sitter takes care of pets while their owners are away and a 16-**doctor** provides the service of taking care of patients' health.

A 17-**producer** is someone who makes or grows goods or who offers services. Farmers, cooks, salespeople, and 18-**manufacturers** are examples of producers. A 19-**consumer** is someone who buys or uses goods and services.

People have a limited amount of money. Because of this, consumers must make choices about what they truly need and what they can 20-**afford**. It's important to buy the things we need before 21-**buying** the things we want.

People who understand this often create and follow a 22-**budget**. They are thoughtful, responsible consumers.

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Name _____

Directions: Read the selection "Economics Overview." Each term written in **bold** in the paragraph can also be found in the word search, below. Find each word in the word search, and then circle each word in BOTH the word search AND in the paragraph below. There are **22** words altogether.

Economics: Overview

E A C O M P U T E R S G M

E S H E L T E R L N D N A

E C E L L P H O N E S I N

C F M O N E Y E E P R Y U

O D E O U J D N E E K U F

N K O C B R C T C D E B A

S R A C O U O U N A A I C

U O R F T N D D T A R M T

M W F E I O O G G S W S U

E A E R R O R M E O J C R

R A E P F I C D I T O U E

S E R V I C E T C C B D R

A W A T E R O S N L S D S

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Answer Key

E A C O M P U T E R S G M
E S H E L T E R L N D N A
E C E L L P H O N E S I N
C F M O N E Y E E P R Y U
O D E O U J D N E E K U F
N K O C B R C T C D E B A
S R A C O U O U N A A I C
U O R F T N D D T A R M T
M W F E I O O G G S W S U
E A E R R O R M E O J C R
R A E P F I C D I T O U E
S E R V I C E T C C B D R
A W A T E R O S N L S D S

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