

Recommended Websites for Teaching Economics

by Thomas O'Connor

All About Economics (<http://www.suelebeau.com/economics.htm>). This website is maintained by educator Susan LeBeau. It has links to many websites that kids can use such as “what is a stock?” or “401 kids.” Useful for teaching about saving bonds and financial portfolios. Includes a section called “kids and money.”

Banking Kids (<http://www.bankingkids.com>). A kid-friendly website for children of all ages. It shows how to start a checking account and how to fill out a check properly. There is a tutorial on how to use an ATM and how to read a bank statement. Includes a number of fun games.

Family Education (<http://life.familyeducation.com/money-and-kids/personal-finance/34481.html>). A commercial website with many advertisements. It targets parents but has useful material for teachers of younger children. Includes lesson ideas on the value of a dollar, becoming smart consumers, and saving money.

H.I.P. Pocket Change (<http://www.usmint.gov/kids>). H.I.P. Pocket Change combines fun with information. Teachers help prepare lesson plans and share innovative ways to use coins in the classroom. Games, stories, and other activities bring the history of coins to life.

Investopedia (<http://www.investopedia.com>). An investing website sponsored by Forbes. It has articles about recent economic events and a useful dictionary. It explains mutual funds and stocks in an easy to understand way.

Kidsbank.com (<http://www.kidsbank.com>). Sponsored by Sovereign Bank. Its goal is to help both teachers and children explore fundamentals of banking such as savings, interest, and checking.

Money Instructor (<http://www.moneyinstructor.com/kids.asp>). Combines practical economics with math instruction. Includes teaching material, games, and activities to teach basic money management skills.

PBS (<http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/money/index.html>). PBS geared this portion of their kids website to money and all the ways it can be made and managed. It promotes responsible consumer behavior.

Social Studies for Kids (<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/subjects/economics.htm>). This site shows children how to organize a business. Links include making a budget, changes in money, and how the internet has affected economics.

Thinkquest (<http://library.thinkquest.org/J003305F>). This site was created for students to learn the basics of economics. It covers how the economy works and its components. There is a library with slide

shows that are helpful as the reference pages. A game simulates what it is like to own a business.

Federal Reserve (<http://www.federalreserve.gov/KIDS>). Teach about the Federal Reserve System, “The Fed,” and its role as the central bank of the United States. It answers questions about the “Fed” in a non-boring way.