

Getting banked

Students select a local bank or credit union to research to learn about what to consider when choosing a financial institution.

Learning goals

Big idea

Finding a bank or credit union that works best for you can help you manage your finances.

Essential questions

- Why is it helpful to work with a bank or credit union?
- What local bank or credit union might meet your banking needs now or in the future?

Objectives



- Learn about a local bank or credit union's products, services, locations, rates, and other factors
- Reflect on whether the bank or credit union might meet the student's banking needs now or in the future

What students will do

- Explore a local bank or credit union's website to learn about its products, services, locations, rates, and other factors.
- Answer questions about what the bank or credit union has to offer and reflect on whether the student would consider banking there now or in the future.

KEY INFORMATION

Building block:

-  Financial habits and norms
-  Financial knowledge and decision-making skills

Grade level: High school (9-12)

Age range: 13-19

Topic: Save and invest (Choosing how to save), Spend (Buying things)

School subject: CTE (Career and technical education), English or language arts, Math, Social studies or history

Teaching strategy: Blended learning, Personalized instruction

Bloom's Taxonomy level: Understand, Apply

Activity duration: 45-60 minutes

STANDARDS

Council for Economic Education
Standard III. Saving

Jump\$tart Coalition
Spending and saving - Standard 3

Preparing for this activity

- While it's not necessary, completing the "[Banking basics card game](#)" activity before this one may make it more meaningful.
- Print copies of all student materials for each student, or prepare for students to access them electronically.
- Make a list of a few local banks and credit unions that students can research in case they can't find one on their own.
- Secure access to the Internet and computers or tablets so students can conduct research.
 - Note: If you can't arrange for students to have individual or group access, this can be done as a whole-class activity by projecting a bank or credit union's website on a screen from a computer.

What you'll need

THIS TEACHER GUIDE

- [Getting banked \(guide\)](#)
[cfpb_building_block_activities_getting-banked_guide.pdf](#)

STUDENT MATERIALS

- [Getting banked \(worksheet\)](#)
[cfpb_building_block_activities_getting-banked_worksheet.pdf](#)
- **Computers or tablets**

Exploring key financial concepts

Financial products and services are the tools you use to store money, make payments and purchases, send money to someone, and borrow money, allowing you to pay for expensive things like houses and cars over time. Financial products and services include savings accounts, checking accounts, debit cards, mobile banking, and online banking. They also include credit cards, bill-payment services, and loans. While other businesses offer some of these products and services, many people choose to do their banking at banks and credit unions. Deposits at banks and credit unions are insured for up to \$250,000 by one of two federal agencies. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insures bank deposits.

The National Credit Union Administration insures credit union deposits. This means that if your bank or credit union fails or goes out of business, the federal government will cover any loss of your deposits up to \$250,000. Another benefit of banking at a bank or credit union is that you can have your check deposited directly into your account when you have a job or when you receive financial aid while at college.

Choosing a bank or credit union can be an important decision. It's helpful to research a bank or credit union's products and services and explore factors such as locations, rates, and fees. Knowing as much as you can before you open an account can help you choose the bank or credit union that works for you.

TIP

Because banking products, terms, and laws change, students should be encouraged to always look for the most up-to-date information.

Teaching this activity

Whole-class introduction

- Distribute the "Getting banked" worksheet to each student.
- Tell students that they'll research a nearby bank or credit union to decide whether they might consider banking there now or in the future.
- Be sure students understand key vocabulary:
 - **ATM:** Stands for "automated teller machine," a machine that lets bank customers perform basic transactions, such as deposits and withdrawals.
 - **Bank:** A financial institution and business that accepts deposits, makes loans, and handles other financial transactions.
 - **Bill-payment service:** A service in which you allow a business to use your cash, your bank or credit union account, a prepaid card, or another payment method to pay your utility, mortgage, or other bills in person, by phone, through a website, or through a mobile phone application.
 - **Checking account:** An account at a bank (sometimes called a share draft account at a credit union) that allows you to make deposits, pay bills, and make withdrawals.
 - **Credit card:** An open-ended loan that allows you to borrow money up to a certain limit and carry over an unpaid balance from month to month. There is no fixed time to repay the loan as long as you make the minimum payment due each month. You pay interest on any outstanding credit card loan balance.

TIP

Visit CFPB's financial education glossary at consumerfinance.gov/financial-education-glossary/.

- **Credit union:** A cooperative financial institution that is chartered by the National Credit Union Administration (a federal independent agency) or a state government and is owned by its individual members.
- **Debit card:** A plastic card used to make purchases at businesses (like grocery stores and gas stations) with money in your checking account.
- **Loan:** Money that needs to be repaid by the borrower, generally with interest.
- **Mobile banking:** A service that allows you to use your smartphone or tablet to manage your bank or credit union account without the aid of a teller. Generally, you can deposit checks into your account using this service, but not cash.
- **Online banking:** A service that allows you to use a secure website to manage your bank or credit union account without the aid of a teller. While you can transfer money between accounts using this service, you generally cannot deposit checks or cash.
- **Savings account:** An account at a bank (sometimes called a share savings account at a credit union) used to set aside money. Savings accounts pay you interest.

Individual or group work

- Students can work individually or as a group but should complete their own worksheet.
- Ask students to name a bank or credit union near their home or school that they'd like to explore.
 - If some students can't identify a nearby bank or credit union, give them one from your list.
- Have students visit the bank or credit union's website and search for information to answer the worksheet questions.

Wrap-up

- Bring the students together and ask for volunteers to briefly share what they found useful or interesting about the bank or credit union they researched.
- Ask for volunteers to share whether they'd bank at the bank or credit union they researched and their reasons why or why not.

Suggested next steps

Consider searching for other [CFPB activities](#) that address the topics of saving and investing (including building emergency savings, choosing how to save, saving for long-term goals, or saving for short-term goals) or spending (including buying things and paying bills).

Measuring student learning

Students' responses to the worksheet questions can give you a sense of their understanding.

Keep in mind that students' answers may vary, as there may not be only one right answer. The important thing is for students to have reasonable justification for their answers.