

Gap Lesson Design

Module 1 — Scarcity, Choice & Opportunity Cost

LESSON PURPOSE

This gap lesson was designed to address missing coverage identified in the standards audit. The existing curriculum did not include sufficient instruction at DOK Level 3 (Analyze) and Level 4 (Evaluate) for the scarcity and choice standards — particularly around complex real-world decision-making scenarios and policy analysis tasks.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Analyze how scarcity forces individuals, businesses, and governments to make choices among competing alternatives (DOK 3)
- ◆ Evaluate the opportunity costs of economic decisions using real-world policy scenarios (DOK 4)
- ◆ Construct an argument defending a resource allocation decision using economic reasoning (DOK 4)

INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE

- ◆ Activate Prior Knowledge (5 min) — Review definition of scarcity; brief pair-share on personal resource trade-offs
- ◆ Direct Instruction (10 min) — Introduce DOK 3 framework: analyzing trade-offs at individual, business, and government levels
- ◆ Guided Practice (15 min) — Case study: government infrastructure budget allocation; groups analyze 3 competing options
- ◆ Independent Practice (10 min) — Students write a cost-benefit argument defending one allocation choice with economic evidence

- ◆ Closure & Assessment (5 min) — Exit ticket: identify opportunity cost of a provided policy decision scenario

ASSESSMENT ITEMS (NEW)

- ◆ MC: A government must choose between funding education or infrastructure. Which economic principle best explains this decision? (DOK 2)

- ◆ MC: If building a new highway costs \$2B and foregoes 3 new schools, the opportunity cost is best described as... (DOK 3)

- ◆ Extended Response: A city council must choose between three budget proposals. Using economic reasoning, defend one choice and identify its opportunity costs. (DOK 4)