

Teacher Notes



Entrepreneurs

Activity 1 The Role of the Present Day Entrepreneur

Activity at a Glance

- ◆ **Subject:** Social Studies
- ◆ **Subject Area:** Economics
- ◆ **Category:** Types of Enterprise
- ◆ **Topic:** Entrepreneurs
- ◆ **Grade Level:** 11 - 12
- ◆ **Prerequisites:** None
- ◆ **Total Teaching Time:** 50 minutes

Materials

- ◆ TI-83 Plus
- ◆ LearningCheck™ app installed on each student's TI-83 Plus
- ◆ Classroom computer with TI-Navigator™ Classroom Network installed or a standalone version of the LearningCheck™ Creator installed
- ◆ Teacher Guide: **Online Teacher Resources**
- ◆ Resource file: **Entrepreneur.edc**

Activity Overview

Students participate in a class discussion that allows them to come to an understanding of the role of present day entrepreneurs in the American free market economy.

Tip

This unit should follow the study of some of the basic concepts of economics such as supply and demand, product markets, cost, factors of production, and profit incentive. Students will be asked to apply these concepts to their study of entrepreneurs in our free market economy.

Teachers with ESL or Special Education students should consider modifying the amount of time for the Type 1 Writing assignment. Teachers may also choose to provide students with a written prompt to complement the oral instructions described within this lesson.

Directions

Before the Activity Begins

Prior to starting this activity, it is important that students understand the definition of an entrepreneur as someone who starts their own business.

After the class discussion, students will work in small groups (3-4) to discuss their opinions. Decide prior to class whether you will assign students to groups or allow them to create their own groups.

The teacher should give the prompt orally to the class. This will help prevent students from simply answering the questions listed. The goal is to provide students a starting point for thinking about starting a business and give them the freedom to express their ideas beyond the stated questions.

During the Activity

Begin the activity by leading a class discussion to determine and define just what an entrepreneur is. Students should be seated individually and prepared to use the NoteFolio™ application on their TI-83 Plus handhelds with the keyboards attached. They should refrain from taking notes during the class discussion.

When the class has discussed the term and developed a definition, give the students five minutes of free writing time to respond to the following questions in a Type 1 Writing. They should record their responses in a new NoteFolio™ file on their TI-83 Plus handhelds. (This writing is based on the Collin's Writing Strategies. See the Teacher Guide, **Teacher Resources**, included at the end of this activity.)

Choose one example of an entrepreneur and describe what makes him/her special.

- ◆ What do you know about the company they started?
- ◆ Have you ever considered starting your own business?
Why or why not?
- ◆ If so, explain what you imagine your life would be like as a business leader.

After five minutes, divide the class into groups of 3-4 students. Ask them to take their NoteFolio™ file with them as they form groups. Each group will discuss the questions above. Every student should participate in the discussion and use the NoteFolio™ file as an aid during the group discussion. The group discussions should last approximately 7-10 minutes.

As students are concluding their sharing, transfer the LearningCheck™ file, **Entrepreneur.edc**, to one member of each group. The following focus questions are contained in this file:

- ◆ Give an example of a business and explain its role in the economy.
- ◆ What do you think the role of the entrepreneur is in a free market economy?

Each group of students will discuss these questions among themselves. As a group, they will respond to the questions, and the person with the file on his or her TI-83 Plus will record the group's response in the LearningCheck™ file. When the file is completed, each group scribe submits it for review either using the TI-Navigator™ System or using a TI Connectivity Cable.

Once all groups have submitted their responses, project the responses using the TI-Navigator™ System and/or TI Presenter™ for the entire class to read. Students should leave their groups and move their desks into a circle to facilitate an open discussion.

The class will conclude with a discussion in response to the question, "What is the role of entrepreneurs in a free market economy?"

After the Activity

Teacher should assess whether students understand what an entrepreneur is and his/her role in a free market economy before moving on.

Teacher Guide

Online Teacher Resources

Title	Brief Description
Collins Writing Program	<p>http://www.collinswritingprogram.com/cea/indexw.html</p> <p>This program includes five “types” of writing strategies to be used across the curriculum.</p>
Newspaper Writing 101	<p>http://www.freep.com/jobspage/academy/writing.htm</p> <p>These are tips for beginners on writing newspaper articles. They were written for participants in the Detroit Free Press high school apprenticeships.</p>
Interview Techniques	<p>http://projects.edtech.sandi.net/staffdev/tpss99/processguides/interviewing.html</p> <p>This provides simple tips for student interviewers.</p>