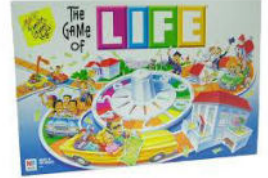


Name: _____



Welcome to Your Life!!

Directions: You will choose a lifestyle and spend the next few days living that life. During that time, you must keep track of your money and paying all of the bills. You will need to keep very good records and follow directions very carefully. Good luck!

Step 1: Draw a card from each stack to figure out your lifestyle. You need to read the card and fill in the following information. (Put the card back as soon as you have written it down.)

Your family (blue card): _____

Your housing (purple card): _____

Cost: _____

Who do you pay?: _____

Your job (green card): _____

Monthly Pay: _____

Step 2: PAY DAY!! See your teacher for your pay stub. You will first need to determine your net pay (subtract your taxes from your monthly pay.) Enter this number as your starting balance on your ledger.

Step 3: Time to write your first check. Pay the rent. Make sure to subtract this amount from your starting balance and keep your current balance accurate as you go through life.

Step 4: More bills!! Pay the electric and the phone bill.

- Write check #2 to **More Power** for \$50.
- Write check #3 to **Ring-ring** for \$35.50

Step 5: You have to put gas in the car at **Mini Mart**. You buy 5 gallons of gas at \$3.50 a gallon. Figure out how much you spent, show your work below, and write a check.

Step 6: You have to make a choice. You have some cash to spend. A friend called and asked you to go to the movies. It will cost you \$8 at **Movie Goers** to get in with your friend. You could have your friend over and rent a movie online for \$4.50 from **Flicks**. What will you do? Decide and write a check and enter the amount in your bank ledger.

Your choice: _____

How much you spent: _____

Step 7: Draw a red payment card from the stack.

What does it say? _____

How much will it cost you? _____

(Don't forget to write a check, if needed, and enter that amount into your ledger.)

Step 8: You are getting hungry and must go to the grocery store. Look in the grocery ads. You need to buy something for dinner: a main dish, vegetable, dessert, and something to drink.

Main dish: _____ Cost: _____

Vegetable: _____ Cost: _____

Dessert: _____ Cost: _____

Drink: _____ Cost: _____

Total: _____

(Don't forget to write a check and include this in your ledger!)

Step 9: Draw a card from the yellow "lucky day" stack.

What does your card say? _____

How much will you add to your bank ledger? _____

Step 10: You have the opportunity to get Cable TV in your home. You may choose whether or not you want to do this. Cable costs \$74 a month. If you want to get it, write a check to **Shows for You**.

Are you getting Cable? _____

Step 11: Draw a red payment card from the stack.

What does it say? _____

How much will it cost you? _____

(Don't forget to write a check, if needed, and enter that amount into your ledger.)

Step 12: Time to go grocery shopping again! Your family wants something different this time!

Main dish: _____ Cost: _____

Vegetable: _____ Cost: _____

Dessert: _____ Cost: _____

Drink: _____ Cost: _____

Total: _____

(Don't forget to write a check and include this in your ledger!)

Step 13: Draw a red payment card from the stack.

What does it say? _____

How much will it cost you? _____

(Don't forget to write a check, if needed, and enter that amount into your ledger.)

Step 14: How much do you have left in your bank ledger? _____

(Double check with a calculator!!)

Extensions to Life

- It is PAY DAY again!!! And you got a raise! To figure out your raise, figure out what 10% of your current net pay is. Add that number to your net pay and write that as a deposit in your ledger. If you are a waiter/waitress, give yourself an addition \$500 in tips for the month.
- You have been on a trip. You drove 180 miles on your tank of gas. Your car gets 20 miles to the gallon. How many gallons will you need to put in your car? Then remember that gas costs \$3.50 a gallon. Show your work below. Make sure to write a check and enter this purchase in your ledger.
- MOVING TIME!! You have to move out of the place you live. Draw a new purple card and then write a check to make your payment.

Your housing (purple card): _____

Cost: _____

Who do you pay?: _____

- Draw a card from the yellow "lucky day" stack.

What does your card say? _____

How much will you add to your bank ledger? _____

- You decide you need a new car. Below are the options for you to consider. At the end you need to explain your choice and write a check for the total amount for the first month. (You must pay the entire cost of the license plates upon purchase.) Write a check for the first month, plus one month of insurance and all of the license plate fees.
 - Option 1: You can buy a brand new card from **Wheels for You** for:
 - \$298.89 a month
 - Insurance = \$79.86 a month
 - License plates = \$432 a year
 - Option 2: You can buy a slightly used car from **Seen Some Miles** for:
 - \$198.89 a month
 - Insurance = \$59.86 a month
 - License plates = \$235 a year
 - Option 3: You can buy an old used card from **Oldie but Goodie** for:
 - \$108.89 a month
 - Insurance = \$36.86 a month
 - License plates = \$112 a year

Which will you choose? _____

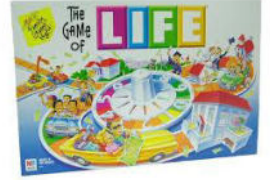
Explain: _____

- You want to buy a cell phone. Decide which plan works best for you and write a check. Keep in mind both companies allow unlimited calls and texting.
 - Option 1: **Phoning for You** offers a free phone but the monthly cost is \$45.
 - Option 2: **It's for You** offers a plan that only costs \$15 a month but you need to buy a phone which will cost \$300.

Which will you choose? _____

Explain: _____

Name: _____



This is Your Life: Reflection

Which of the things you did as part of this "game" do you think is the most like what adults do in the real world? Why do you think that?

What did you find to be the most challenging part of living your "life"? Explain.

What did you wish you could have changed about your "life"? Why?

What advice would you like to give the future you about handling your personal finances?

Teacher Notes:

I usually do this as an end-of-year activity with my fourth grade gifted class. The activities in this are great to use their cumulative math skills from the year and address financial literacy standards.

Before beginning, you will need to copy and cut all of the cards. It will be necessary to print them in paper since the student instructions refer to the color of the card. You'll also need to collect a few grocery flyers or have computer accessible so that students can do meal planning. I usually spend a whole class period teaching the kids how to write checks (which I know is a little old fashioned!) and fill out a bank ledger. It is certainly an option to forgo the checks and have the kids use an excel spreadsheet as their ledger. Do what works best for your students in your classroom. Once the kids have picked their initial jobs, families, and houses, I let them work independently at their own pace through their "life." The extensions are just that - extensions. They can be used for those students who finish early.

Because I do this at the end of the year, I do not generally grade it but you could certainly grade for accuracy of the math. I instead hope that they begin to see how to be responsible and also get a dose of reality for the benefits and costs of being an adult. To fulfill that goal, I created a reflection for the students to share their learning.

Final notes & Answer Keys:

* The amount of pay each job gets is actually based on payment stats from:

http://www.bls.gov/oes/2012/may/oes_nat.htm#23-0000 Colorado state tax is 4.63 so I rounded to 5%. Then I used these tax brackets to determine the federal taxes:

\$8925-36,250 = 15%

\$36,250 - 87,850 = 25%

\$87,850-183,250 = 28%

\$183,250-398,350 = 33%

* Totals for Paychecks:

Sales Clerk \$1573.99

Third Grade Teacher \$2987.24

Police Officer \$2511.24

Doctor \$9819.76

Fast Food Server \$1393.99

Engineer \$5078.60

Carpenter \$2597.00

Actor/Actress \$2151.92

Car Sales Person \$2216.08

Computer Programmer \$4565.17

Bank Teller \$1719.33

Waiter/Waitress \$1380.66

Lawyer \$7307.47

Artist \$2349.34

Dentist \$9114.23

Athlete \$4419.33

* Answers for gas:

First gas stop = \$17.50

Second gas stop = \$31.50

* Answers for car totals:

Option 1 = \$810.75

Option 2 = \$493.75

Option 3 = \$257.75

* Answers for phone totals:

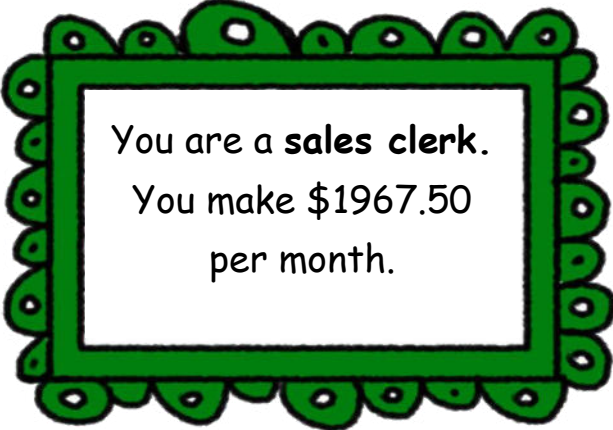
Option 1 = \$540

Option 2 = \$480

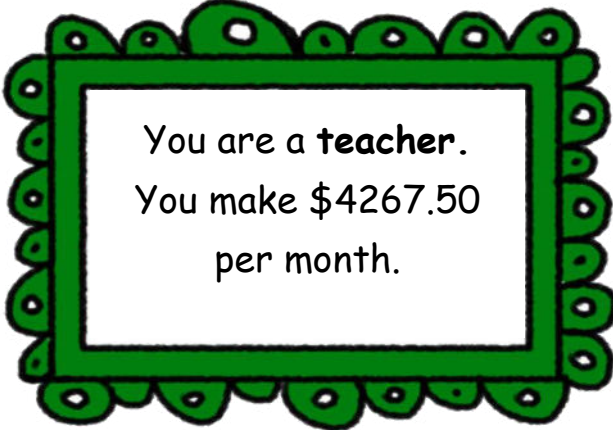
Graphic Credits:

Clip Art by Carrie @ C&C Teach First: www.ccteachfirst.blogspot.com






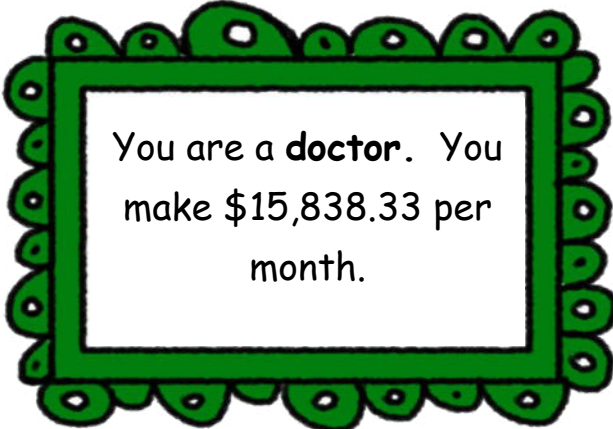
You are a **sales clerk**.
You make \$1967.50
per month.




You are a **teacher**.
You make \$4267.50
per month.



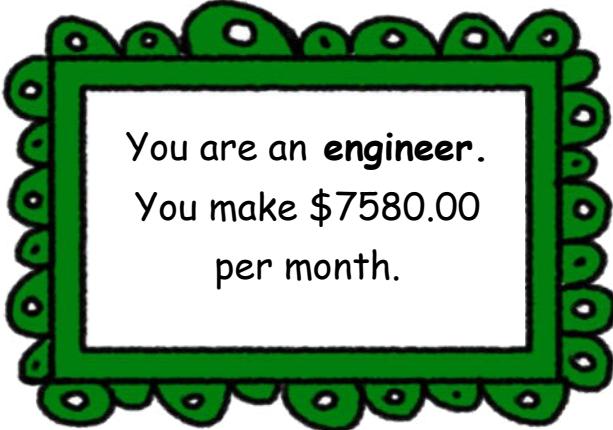
You are a **police officer**. You make
\$3587.50 per month.




You are a **doctor**. You
make \$15,838.33 per
month.



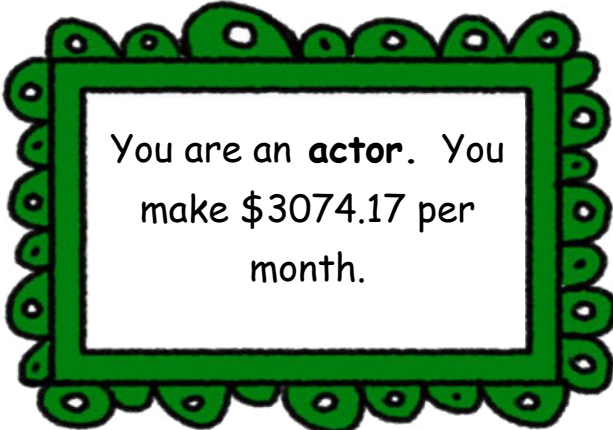
You are a **fast food server**. You make
\$1742.50 per month.



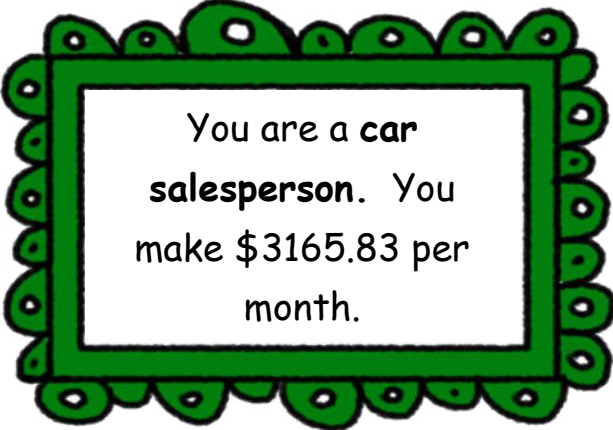
You are an **engineer**.
You make \$7580.00
per month.



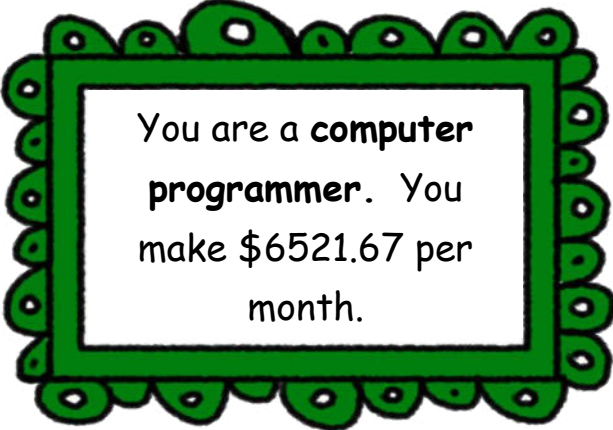
You are a **carpenter**.
You make \$3710.00
per month.




You are an **actor**. You
make \$3074.17 per
month.



You are a **car salesperson**. You make \$3165.83 per month.



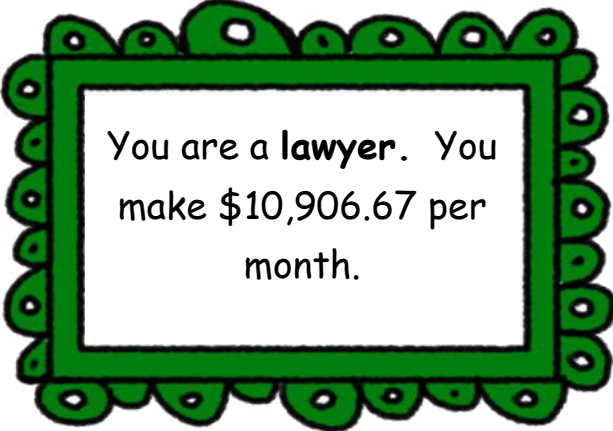
You are a **computer programmer**. You make \$6521.67 per month.




You are a **bank teller**. You make \$2149.17 per month.



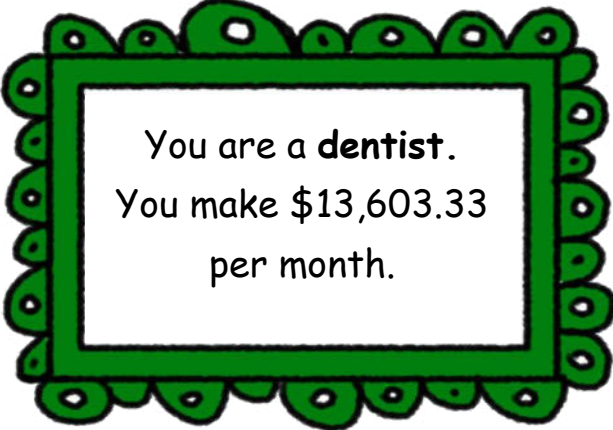
You are a **waiter/waitress**. You make \$1725.83 per month.




You are a **lawyer**. You make \$10,906.67 per month.



You are an **artist**. You make \$2936.67 per month.



You are a **dentist**. You make \$13,603.33 per month.



You are an **athlete**. You make \$6313.33 per month.

Sales Clerk

Leave and Earnings Statement

Monthly Pay	\$1967.50
State Tax (5%)	\$-98.38

Third Grade Teacher

Leave and Earnings Statement

Monthly Pay	\$4267.50
State Tax (5%)	\$-213.38

Police Officer

Leave and Earnings Statement

Monthly Pay	\$3587.50
State Tax (5%)	\$-179.38

Doctor

Leave and Earnings Statement

Monthly Pay	\$15,838.33
State Tax (5%)	\$-791.92

Fast Food Server

Leave and Earnings Statement

Monthly Pay	\$1742.50
State Tax (5%)	\$-87.13

Engineer

Leave and Earnings Statement

Monthly Pay	\$7580.00
State Tax (5%)	\$-379.00

Carpenter

Leave and Earnings Statement

Monthly Pay	\$3710.00
State Tax (5%)	\$-185.5

Actor/Actress

Leave and Earnings Statement

Monthly Pay	\$3074.17
State Tax (5%)	\$-153.71

Car Sales Person

Leave and Earnings Statement

Monthly Pay	\$3165.83
State Tax (5%)	\$-158.29

Computer Programmer

Leave and Earnings Statement

Monthly Pay	\$6521.67
State Tax (5%)	\$-326.08

Bank Teller

Leave and Earnings Statement

Monthly Pay	\$2149.17
State Tax (5%)	\$-107.46

Waiter/Waitress

Leave and Earnings Statement

Monthly Pay	\$1725.83
State Tax (5%)	\$-86.29

Lawyer

Leave and Earnings Statement

Monthly Pay	\$10,906.67
State Tax (5%)	\$-545.33

Artist

Leave and Earnings Statement

Monthly Pay	\$2936.67
State Tax (5%)	\$-146.83

Dentist

Leave and Earnings Statement

Monthly Pay	\$13,603.33
State Tax (5%)	\$-680.17

Athlete

Leave and Earnings Statement

Monthly Pay

\$6313.33

State Tax (5%)

\$-315.67

This block contains an empty template for a second Leave and Earnings Statement. It features a decorative, hand-drawn border with a jagged, wavy edge. Inside the border is a large, empty rectangular box, intended for the user to fill in their own information and calculations.

This block contains an empty template for a third Leave and Earnings Statement. It features a decorative, hand-drawn border with a jagged, wavy edge. Inside the border is a large, empty rectangular box, intended for the user to fill in their own information and calculations.

You are married
and have 2 boys in
high school.

You are married
and have 2 girls in
elementary school.

You are married
but have no
children.

You are married
and have 3
children (2 boys
and a girl.)

You are not
married and have
no children.

You are married
and have 1 baby
boy.

You are married
and have 1
daughter.

You are married
and have triplets.

You rent an apartment that costs \$900 a month. Write your check to **You Are Home.**

You own a two story house in the country that costs \$1400 a month. Write your check to **American Bank.**

You own a condo that costs \$1200 a month. Write your check to **State Bank.**

You own a four bedroom house in the city that costs \$1800 a month. Write your check to **Banks-R-Us.**

You rent a two-bedroom house that costs \$1300 a month. Write your check to **Sue Lady Land.**

You rent a small condo that costs \$1100 a month. Write your check to **Harvey Household.**

You own a ranch home on the edge of town that costs \$1400 a month. Write your check to **Western Bank.**

You live with your parents and pay them rent that costs \$800 a month. Make the check to **your parents.**

You need new shoes and only like to own name-brand. Make a check to **Run with Me** for \$88.

Oops! You made a mistake in your bank account record keeping. The bank subtracts \$25 from your account so you should too!

Your family wants to spend a day at the local amusement park. Make your check to **Mighty Mouse** for \$65 times the number of people in your family.

You decide to buy a new couch. It will cost \$599 so make your check out to **Luv's Sofa**.

You have to go to the dentist and have a cavity filled. Make your check for \$129 to **Mr. Tooth**.

Your tv died. The new one will cost you \$639. Make a check out to **Fun Stuff**.

You had a minor fender-bender in the parking lot at work with a pole. It will cost \$365 to buff the paint. Make your check to **The Dent Doctors**.

You are sick and have to go to the doctor. Your insurance doesn't cover all the cost so you pay \$96 to **Good Health**. Write a check.

The dishwasher is leaking. The repair person comes and charges \$98 to fix it. Write a check to **Fred's Fix It**.

You are late paying your electric bill. Subtract \$15 from your account for the late fee you paid with your last bill.

For fun, you go to dinner and a play that cost \$109. (If you have a spouse, you must take them too for the same price!) Write the check to **Candlelight**.

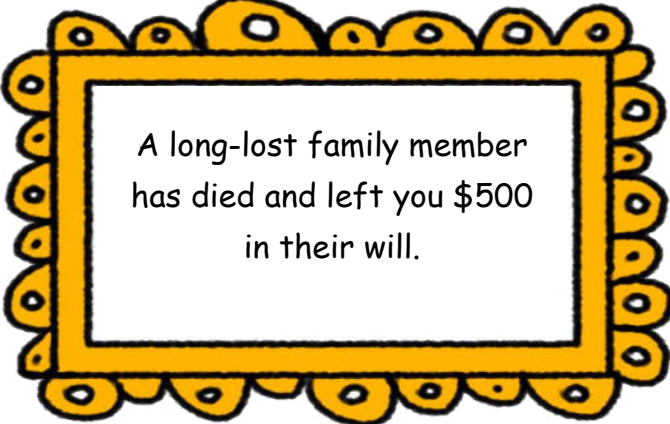
The local school is holding a fundraiser and you decide to donate \$65. Make the check out to **Sky View Elementary**.

It is your grandma's birthday and you buy her a gift. Make a check out for \$74 to **Jewels** for the necklace you bought her.


Tire blowout on the way to work! Write a check to **Discount Tire** for \$137 for a replacement.

Your dog needs a trip to the vet for shots. Write a check to **Furry Friends** for \$92.

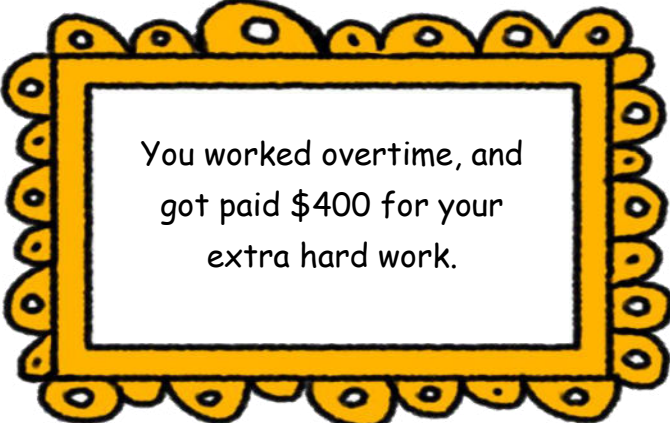
On a trip to the mall, you find a shirt you cannot live without. Write a check to **Shirt Shack** for \$47.



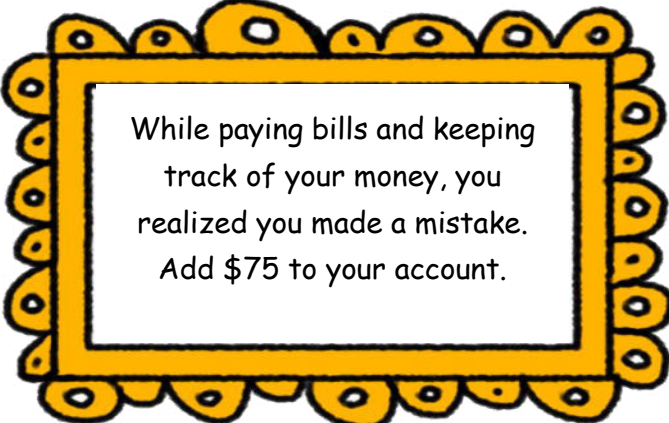
A long-lost family member
has died and left you \$500
in their will.



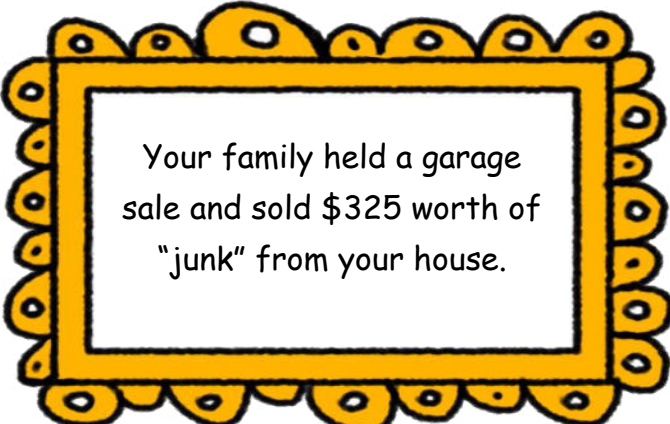
You won a contest sponsored
by the local newspaper for
\$250.




You worked overtime, and
got paid \$400 for your
extra hard work.



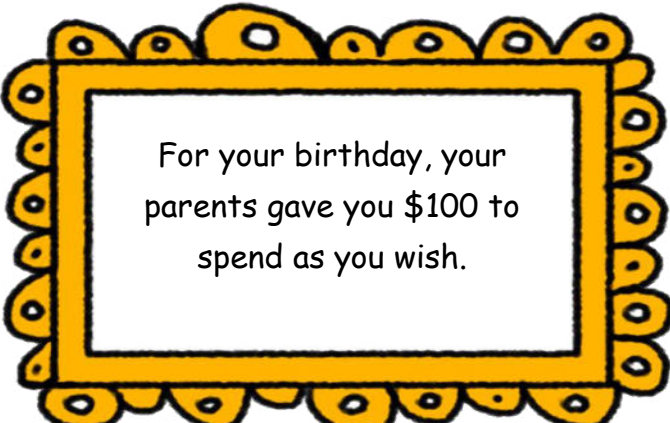
While paying bills and keeping
track of your money, you
realized you made a mistake.
Add \$75 to your account.




Your family held a garage
sale and sold \$325 worth of
"junk" from your house.



You filled out your taxes
April 15 and deserved a
\$750 refund.



For your birthday, your
parents gave you \$100 to
spend as you wish.



It's Christmas! Your boss
has decided to give everyone
a \$1000 bonus!



Banking Ledger

Date	Check Number	Payee	Amount
			Starting Balance:
Date	Debit or Credit? Check Number	Payee	Amount

			Ending Balance:

Werner 4th Grader
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Date _____ 1

Pay to the
Order of _____

Peak Bank
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Werner 4th Grader
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Pay to the
Order of _____

Peak Bank
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Werner 4th Grader
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Date _____ 3

Pay to the
Order of _____

Peak Bank
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Werner 4th Grader
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Pay to the
Order of _____

Peak Bank
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Werner 4th Grader
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Date _____ 5

Pay to the
Order of _____

Werner 4th Grader
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Pay to the
Order of _____

Werner 4 th Grader	7
Fort Collins, CO 80525	Date _____
Pay to the	
Order of _____	<div></div>
Peak Bank	
Fort Collins, CO 80525	_____

Werner 4 th Grader	
Fort Collins, CO 80525	
Pay to the	
Order of _____	
Peak Bank	
Fort Collins, CO 80525	_____

Werner 4 th Grader	9
Fort Collins, CO 80525	Date _____
Pay to the	
Order of _____	
Peak Bank	
Fort Collins, CO 80525	_____

Werner 4 th Grader	
Fort Collins, CO 80525	
Pay to the	
Order of _____	
Peak Bank	
Fort Collins, CO 80525	_____

Werner 4 th Grader	11
Fort Collins, CO 80525	Date _____
Pay to the	
Order of _____	
Peak Bank	
Fort Collins, CO 80525	_____

Werner 4 th Grader	
Fort Collins, CO 80525	
Pay to the	
Order of _____	
Peak Bank	
Fort Collins, CO 80525	_____

Werner 4 th Grader	13
Fort Collins, CO 80525	Date _____
Pay to the	
Order of _____	<div></div>

Werner 4 th Grader	
Fort Collins, CO 80525	
Pay to the	
Order of _____	

