



TimeBank, Inc.

Description:

Your students will think differently about time after this activity!

This lesson demonstrates the value of time in a very concrete way, by relating it to something most students are very interested in—money.

Objectives:

Students will:

- understand the value of time
- be motivated to spend their time wisely

Procedure:

1. Photocopy and hand out the TimeBank, Inc. handout.
2. Read it aloud with the class.
3. Ask students to spend five minutes quietly thinking about what "investing time" means to them. Ask them to jot down a few activities that they believe are worth investing time in.
4. Hold a class discussion about investing time, and student responses to this new way of thinking about each and every minute of our days.



Imagine: You own a bank. Yes, you. Guess you didn't know that, huh?

At your bank, you have an account—a very special account. This account, the only one of its kind in the world, cannot be deposited into. It can only be withdrawn from.

You might think that an account like that would very quickly become empty, and you'd be right. But since you own the bank, the bank itself has agreed to deposit money into the account. In fact, you are so valuable to the bank that \$86,400 will be deposited into your private account each and every morning, for the rest of your life. Wow! What's the catch, you say.

Well, surprise surprise, there is a catch.

The catch is that every night the account is emptied. You can come into your bank at midnight, and your balance will be nonexistent. Nada. Zilch. Zippo. Nothing.

So what's your plan?

Isn't it obvious? Withdraw every last cent each day! Take the money out! You can't save it, so you may as well spend it!

Well, guess what. You DO have a bank. It's called the TimeBank, Inc. Every morning you get 86,400 seconds. Every night you end up with zero. If you don't withdraw your seconds and invest them in worthwhile activities, you lose them forever. There's no such thing as carrying a balance. And you can't borrow based on tomorrow's share. So what are you doing with your seconds?

Invest the present to get the maximum return in the future!

What I want to invest my time in:



List your top three choices for investing time in the Weekly Goals section of your agenda for this week or the next.

I wasted time, and now time doth waste me. - Shakespeare, in *Richard II*