



GRADE 6+

# What Are Savings? | Lesson Plan

What are savings, and how do I start saving money?

Students learn about savings accounts, why they are important, and the steps they can take to start saving money.

## Learning Objectives:

- Understand what a savings account is and how it works.
- List reasons why someone would want to get a savings account.
- Define key terms associated with saving, including savings account, emergency fund, nest egg, deposit, and withdraw.
- Explore different ways to save money.
- Set goals for how much money to save and create an action plan to reach those goals.

## Key Vocabulary:

- Savings Account: Account designed to earn interest and save money.
- Emergency Fund: Savings for covering unexpected expenses.
- Nest Egg: Savings for building wealth for the future.
- Deposit: Adding money to a financial account.
- Withdraw: Removing money from a financial account.

**Educational Standards:** Financial Literacy, Decision Making, Personal Responsibility, Personal Finance

## What You'll Need

- Video: [Ca\\$h Cour\\$e: What Are Savings?](#)



Scan to watch video.

- Worksheet: *Ca\$h Cour\$e: What Are Savings?* ([Download PDF](#))

- Classroom whiteboard and dry-erase markers (you may choose to use a technology solution if it is available to you).

## Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: What are savings, and how do I start saving money? (10 mins.)

1. Create a scenario: Select a big purchase students want to save up for, such as a new phone. Find the price of what it would cost to buy it brand new. Write that on the board.
2. As a class, break down the cost of buying that item if you saved for one year (12 months). How much money would you need to set aside monthly to buy that item in 1 year?
3. Ask: *What are some ways you could save money for this item?* Have students raise their hands to share with the class or have them come up and write ideas on the classroom whiteboard. (Examples: Put aside money from jobs, do more chores, sell things they don't need anymore, etc.)
4. Say: *These are great ideas! As you can see, it takes time and hard work to save your money. Let's learn more about savings with our next activity.*

Watch and Apply: (25 mins.)

1. State: *We will watch this video and see what we can learn about savings, then answer some questions to see what we've learned!*
2. Watch the video, *Ca\$h Cour\$e: What Are Savings?*
3. Draw a circle on the board and label it "spending habits," like the one from the video. Have students participate by sharing what things they spend money on. Add those onto the pie chart. Now, ask students what spending habits could be cut and put toward savings instead. The key here is eliminating unnecessary or overly expensive items such as games and entertainment, snacks or drinks, etc.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Distribute the *Ca\$h Cour\$e: What Are Savings?* Worksheet. Have students complete a no or low-stakes assessment.
2. After the assessment (you may choose to collect or not), work through the questions as a class and discuss any areas where students needed help, still needed to complete it, or had questions.
3. Discuss: *What did you learn about savings? What do you want to save up for? How could you reach that goal?*
4. *Optional:* Explain additional take-home assignment: Have students calculate their emergency fund or create a savings plan to buy a big purchase. They can use the strategies and calculations from the video or download a free money/budgeting app that can help them track and save their money. Have them write a reflection on what they learned.

## Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (10-15 mins.)

- Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.
- Or, have students watch the video at home and use the worksheet as a quick quiz the next day in class.