

LEARNING EXPERIENCE BRIEF

JA Our City[®]

- ▶ Work and Career Readiness
- ▶ Financial Literacy
- ▶ Entrepreneurial Mindset



JA Our City introduces third grade students to the essential concepts of community, collaboration, and the economy through hands-on, engaging activities. Through interactive experiences like city-building, designing sustainable spaces, and simulating financial decisions, students will connect their actions to broader societal outcomes, highlighting the impact of personal choices on local economic success.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Five 45-minute sessions
- High-quality, approachable lessons with engaging, hands-on activities that incorporate future-ready and real-world concepts
- School-to-home activities that extend learning from the classroom to students' families and their own communities
- JA Mindset[™] infused into sessions through “The Adventures of Jade and Jack” and accompanying activities and talking points
- Age-appropriate content in financial literacy and work readiness with entrepreneurial mindset woven throughout

LEARNING EXPERIENCE OBJECTIVES

After participating in the learning experience, students will be able to:

- Identify the purpose of a city.
- Compare and contrast the choices people have with money.
- Describe how money moves in the city.

JA'S TURNKEY SOLUTION FOR EDUCATORS & VOLUNTEERS

Junior Achievement's national network of educators and volunteers help today's young people connect the dots between what they learn in school and the “business of life”—work readiness, entrepreneurial mindset, and financial literacy.

PERSONALIZED SERVICE

JA works to ensure that local educators and volunteers come together to engage students. Combining personalized volunteer placement, educator engagement, and standards-based curriculum at a local level provides service and support for each JA Learning Experience.

COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING & SUPPORT

JA staff offers training to ensure facilitators are comfortable delivering JA content. Training topics include working with students and educators, and understanding how to effectively facilitate curriculum and specific hands-on activities.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteers bring their experience into the classroom, helping students feel connected to their community. The time commitment is minimal compared to the significant impact made.

JA Our City

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

1 Session One: Let's Build a City!

Students build a city by decorating three-dimensional buildings and placing them on a map. Students explore the various businesses, organizations, and workers needed in a city.

2 Session Two: City for the Future

Students work in pairs to redesign underused areas in the city, providing space for additional services and community activities. Students think like city planners and use a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) design process.

3 Session Three: My Money Choices

Students learn about personal money choices and the purpose of banks and credit unions. They track the amount of money coming in and going out as they earn, save, buy, and give while playing a board game.

4 Session Four: Money Flows in the City

Students learn about the flow of money through the economy. In small groups, students sequence the movement of money through a city as community members earning, saving, spending, and giving.

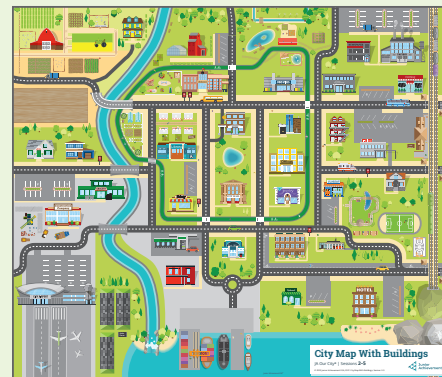
5 Session Five: Workplaces in the City

Students explore their personal interests and the workplace settings they prefer. They create a paper persona and place it on the City Map near the building or work environment that best matches their preferences.

Together at Home



City Map with Pop-Up Buildings



Front of Community Member Card



Back of Community Member Card



STEM materials

