



Needs and Wants

Objectives

1. To help students understand the difference between needs and wants
2. To assist students in recognizing that needs and wants can be different for people living in other parts of the world

Subject Area

English Language Arts (K-12), Social Studies (2), Foods and Nutrition (5-8), Clothing and Textiles (5-8)



Discussion

- What do you need money for?
- What do you want money for?
- In your view, what percentage of money should be allocated toward the needs in life (food, shelter and basic clothing), and how much should be put toward the wants?
- Do we all have the same needs? Do we all have the same wants?
- Is it easier for some people to satisfy their needs than it is for others?
- Have needs and wants changed over time?
- Why can't we always have what we want?
- Why is it hard to accept "no" as a response when we want something?
- Should children always get what they want? Does it help if an adult explains why a child can't have what they want?



Activity

Survival

Length: 1 hour

Materials: *Survival Handouts*, a variety of items from the classroom (chalk, white board, paper, markers, etc.) or home, dictionaries

- Collect a variety of items from around the school that represent needs and wants. Get the kids to help you separate them into one need pile and one want pile, then have them explain why each item belongs in the pile it's in.

- Divide the kids into five groups and give each group one of the *Survival Handouts*. Each handout has a different scenario and a list of items for students to categorize as either a need or a want.
- After 30 minutes, each group will present their scenario, explain how they categorized their items and why they made the choices that they did. Alternatively, you can provide an opportunity for a gallery walk; groups could present their information on poster paper, then circulate and look at the groups' posters, leaving comments on whether they agree or disagree with the other groups' choices.

Extension

- Kids can take inventory of what is in their own homes. Have them pick a room and list as many items as they can, designating each as a need or a want. Have the students complete the *Needs or Wants Handout*.

Collaborative Feedback

- What did they notice about their lists? Which rooms had more needs and which had more wants?
- What was the best buy they've ever made, and what was the worst? Were those purchases wants or needs? Have the students complete the *Best Buy, Worst Buy Handout*.



Teacher Tips

- Needs and wants are different for people all over the world. Have students learn more about the needs and wants of someone living in a different country by visiting the websites of organizations like UNICEF or World Vision.

Pre- and Post-Assessment of Lesson

- What can you tell me about needs and wants?
- What did you learn about needs and wants?



Survival

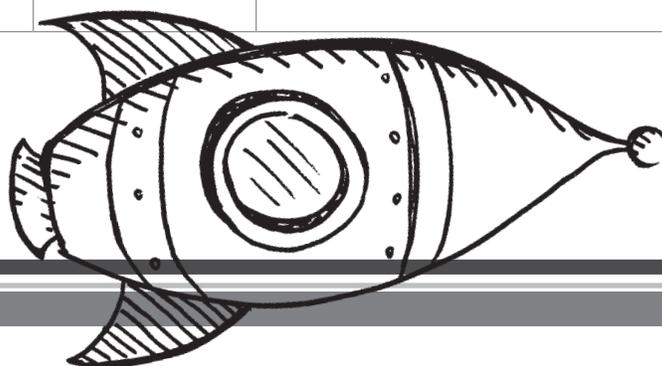
Situation #1

You are members of a lunar exploration crew scheduled to rendezvous with a space station orbiting the moon. Due to mechanical difficulties, your ship is forced to land on the surface 320 kilometres off course. During the landing, one of your ship's engines is damaged, and your ship is now too heavy to fly.

Your Task

Your group has to leave behind some supplies in order to lift off and reach the space station. Listed here are 15 items left that were not damaged after crashing. Your task as a group is to determine whether each item is a need or want in order for you to complete the trip, and explain why. Make sure that someone from your group records your answers, and select a couple of people to report back to the class.

Items	Need or want	What makes this a need or a want?
First-aid kit		
Flares		
Flashlight		
Freeze dried food		
Heater		
Map of the moon		
Milk		
Oxygen tank		
Parachute		
Radio receiver		
Rocket fuel		
Space exploration suits		
Tablet computer		
Rope		
Water		



Survival

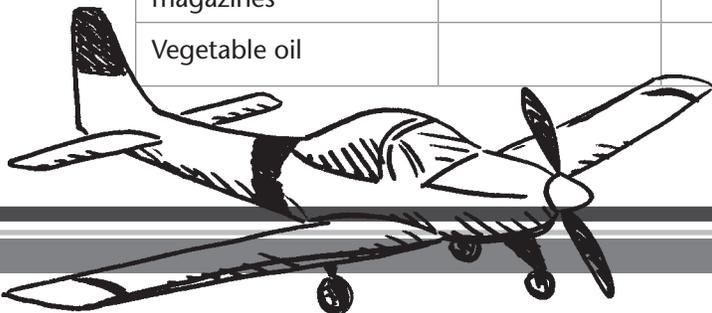
Situation #2

You and your companions have just survived the crash of a small plane. It is mid-January and you are in Northern Canada. The nearest town is 35 kilometres away, and all you can see is snow and icy rivers lining the countryside. The daily temperature is 0°C and drops below freezing at night. You are dressed in city clothes appropriate for a business meeting.

Your Task

Your group has to salvage what you can in order to survive the trip to the nearby town. Listed are 15 items left that were not damaged during the crash. Your task as a group is to determine whether each item is a want or a need as you make your way to town, and explain why. Make sure that someone from your group records your answers, and select a couple of individuals to report back to the class.

Items	Need or want	What makes this a need or a want?
Air map		
Ball of steel wool		
Batteries		
Compass		
Can opener		
Elastic bands		
Empty water bottles		
Extra shirts (one per person)		
Family-sized chocolate bars (one per person)		
Hatchet		
Lighter		
Inflatable raft		
Medium-sized tarp		
Newspapers and magazines		
Vegetable oil		



Survival

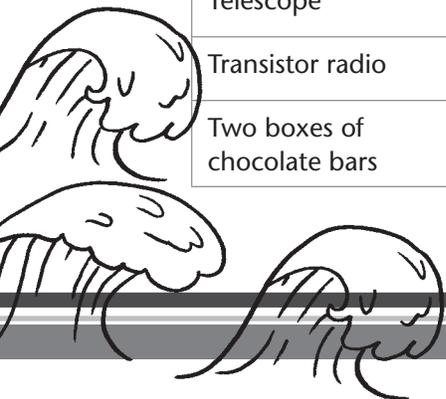
Situation #3

Your private yacht sunk after an unfortunate mechanical fire below deck, and you are now adrift somewhere in the South Pacific, approximately 200 kilometres away from the nearest shore. Your group managed to grab some supplies before jumping into a large rubber life raft, but the raft has a small hole at the bottom that is slowly letting in water.

Your Task

Your group must figure out which supplies to keep and which supplies to throw overboard to avoid sinking while you paddle to shore. Listed are the 15 items that you brought from the yacht. Your task as a group is to determine whether each item is a need or want in order for you to survive, and explain why. Make sure that someone from your group records your answers, and select a couple of individuals to report back to the class.

Items	Need or want	What makes this a need or a want?
Air horn		
Fishing kit		
Fresh water bottles (one per person)		
GPS device		
Inflatable seat cushion		
Magazines		
Mosquito netting		
Map of the Pacific Ocean		
Nylon rope		
One case of army rations		
Plastic wrap		
Shark repellent		
Telescope		
Transistor radio		
Two boxes of chocolate bars		



Survival

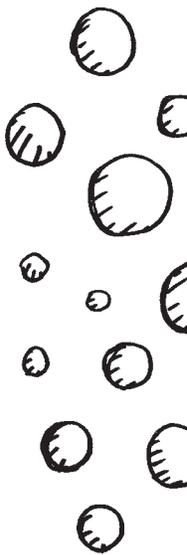
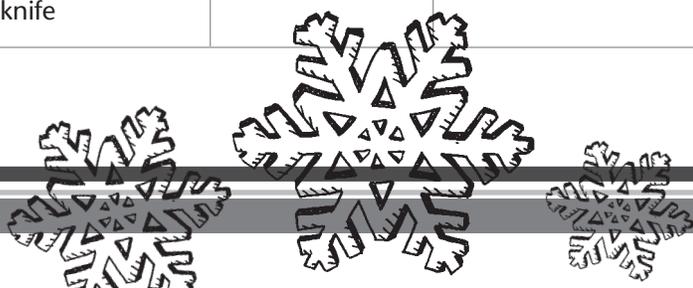
Situation #4

Your geological team has been assigned to drill ice cores 40 kilometers from your arctic base camp. While you're drilling, a sudden snowstorm strikes and severs your communication with base camp, leaving you stranded with only the few supplies that you had packed for the day. Storms in this region can last for days, and you're not sure how long it will be before rescue arrives.

Your Task

Your group has decided to seek out shelter in a nearby cave, and must determine which supplies to take with you while you seek shelter from the storm. Listed are the 15 items that you have to choose from. Your task as a group is to determine whether each item is a need or want in order for you to survive, and explain why. Make sure that someone from your group records your answers, and select a couple of individuals to report back to the class.

Items	Need or want	What makes this a need or a want?
Blanket		
Blow torch		
Camera		
Camping pots and pans		
Camping stove		
Canned beans		
Extra socks		
Flashlight		
Insulated beverage container		
Matches		
Snowshoes		
Sleeping bags		
Shovel		
Tablet computer		
Utility knife		



Survival

Situation #5

It is 10 a.m. on a hot August day and your dune buggy has broken down in the middle of the Chihuahuan Desert. You're in a radio dead zone, unable to call for help, and the nearest town is 70 kilometres away. The desert is flat and barren, and the weather is forecasted to reach 43°C.

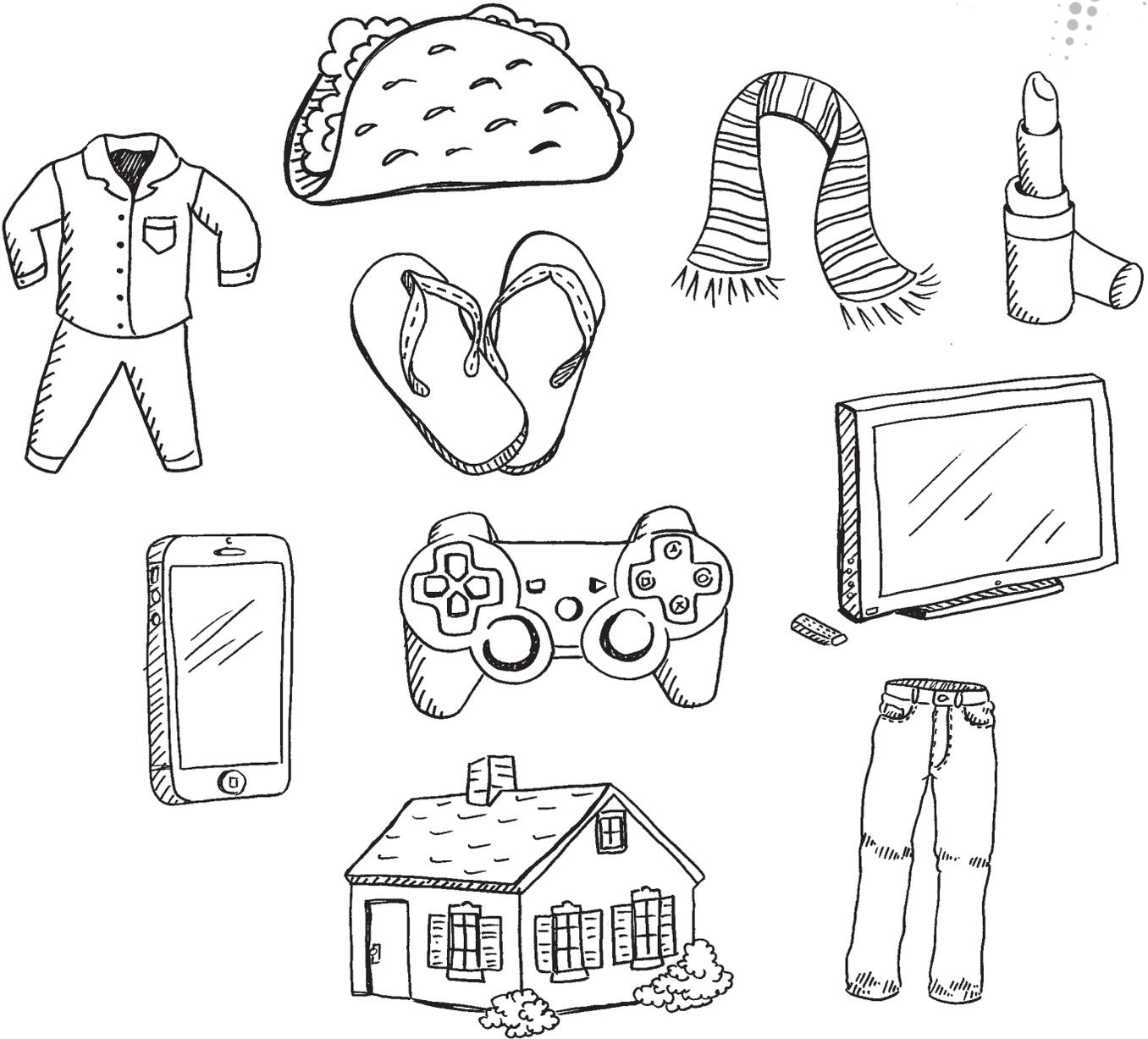
Your Task

Your group has to figure out what you can carry with you on the hike to the nearby town. Listed are 15 items stored in the dune buggy. Your task as a group is to determine whether each item is a want or a need as you make your way to town, and explain why. Make sure that someone from your group records your answers, and select a couple of individuals to report back to the class.

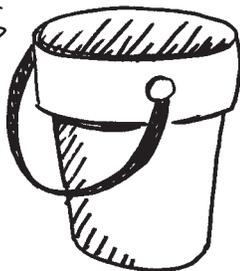
Items	Need or want	What makes this a need or a want?
Guide to desert animals		
Air horn		
Compass		
Engine oil		
First-aid kit		
GPS device		
Granola bars		
Map of the desert		
Matches		
Parachute		
Pocket knife		
Rain poncho		
Salt		
Sunglasses (one pair per person)		
Water bottles		

Needs or Wants

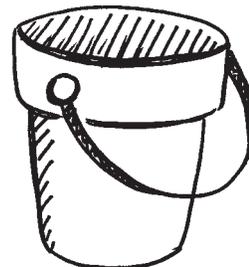
Draw a line from the item to the correct bucket that the item belongs in.



Needs

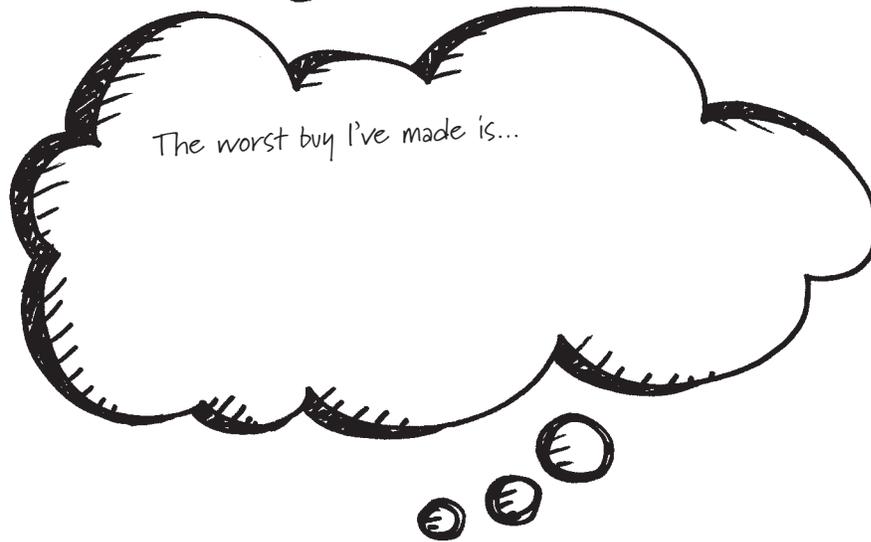


Wants



Best Buy, Worst Buy

In each bubble, write a description of the best and worst purchase that you've made. What made your best buy so great? Why do you feel your worst buy was not such a good purchase?



Did you learn any smart shopping tips from making these "need" or "want" purchases? What were they?
