Kiddynomics

Lesson 1:

Betty Bunny Wants Everything

By Michael B. Kaplan / ISBN: 978-0-8037-3408-1

Lesson Author

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Lesson Description

In this lesson, students learn about wants, choice, and scarcity. They listen to the story *Betty Bunny Wants Everything* and identify all the wants that Betty Bunny has at the toy store. Students learn that because of scarcity, they must make choices. They practice making choices by selecting a prize they want, a toy for one of the book characters, and finally a school item. They sing a song about choices and scarcity.

Grade Level

PreK-K

Economic Concepts (Vocabulary)

Choice

Scarcity

Wants

School Readiness Skills

- Practice book awareness (reading front to back, recognizing title/author/illustrator)
- Count in sequence from 1 to 10
- Match two like pictures in a set of five pictures
- Attempt to write letters in own name
- Understand concept of more and less with up to five objects

Time Required

Approximately 60 minutes

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Materials

- *Betty Bunny Wants Everything* by Michael B. Kaplan (ISBN: 978-0-8037-3408-1)
- Visuals 1.1 and 1.2, one copy of each
- Handouts 1.1 and 1.2, one copy of each for each student
- Two small prizes such as animal erasers and fidget toys, enough for each student to have just one of either but not both
- 5"× 8" index cards, one for each student
- Pencils, one for each student
- Tape

Procedure

1. Ask the students if they would like a prize. (Most will.)

2. Show the students two prizes such as animal erasers and fidget toys, but be sure that there isn't enough for each student to have both prizes—only one of either. Discuss the following:
   - Raise your hand if you want an animal eraser.
   - Raise your hand if you want a fidget toy.
   - Raise your hand if you would like both.

3. Tell the students that a **want** is something they would like to have.

4. Explain to the students that there isn't enough of each prize for everyone to have both prizes. Invite the students to come to the front of the room one at a time and select only one prize.

5. Explain to the students that they had to make a **choice**. When they make a choice, they must pick among different options. They had two options, animal erasers and fidget toys. Discuss the following:
   - Which prize did you choose? (*Answers will vary.*)

6. Discuss the following:
   - Why couldn't you have both an animal eraser and a fidget toy? (*There was not enough of each for every student.*)

7. Tell the students that not having enough is called **scarcity**. Scarcity means that there isn't enough for everyone to have everything they want. Discuss the following:
   - What are some things in our classroom that are scarce? (*Answers will vary but may include blocks, scissors, or crayons.*)

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8. Show the students the cover of the book, *Betty Bunny Wants Everything*. Discuss the following:
    - Where is the title of the book? (*On the front of the book*) Point to the title and read it aloud.
    - Where is the name of the author, the person who writes the book? (*On the front of the book*) Point to the author's name and read it aloud.
    - Where is the name of the illustrator, the person who draws the pictures for the book? (*On the front of the book*) Point to the illustrator's name and read it aloud.
    - What do you think the book is about? (*Answers will vary but may include toys or shopping.*)

9. Read the book and ask the students to listen for all of the things Betty Bunny wants.

10. Discuss the following:
    - What toys did Betty Bunny want? Write the students' answers on the board or a large sheet of paper. (*A little stuffed bunny, a Fairy Princess Doll, a Shake and Rattle Music Set, a Techno Monster Figures Pack, an Ultra Blast Rocket, a Captain Gizmo Detective Kit, a Spin Art Paint Set, a Slide 'N' Splash Inflatable Pool, a giant stuffed panda, five rubber balls, a yellow dump truck, and a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle*)
    - What problem did Betty Bunny have? (*Her parents said she couldn't have all of these toys.*)
    - Why do you think her parents said she couldn't have all of the toys she put in her cart? (*Answers will vary but may include the following: The toys cost too much. They didn't have enough money to buy everything. She didn't need all of the toys.*)
    - What did her parents tell her? (*You can't have everything you want.*)
    - What do we call the problem when you can't have everything you want? (*Scarcity*)

11. Remind the students that Betty Bunny's parents gave her some money. Discuss the following:
    - Could Betty Bunny buy all of the toys she wanted with the money her parents gave her? (*No*)
    - What did she have to do? (*She had to make a choice.*)
    - What did she choose? (*She chose to save some money and spend some on a little stuffed bunny that looked like her.*)

12. Tell the students that once Betty Bunny bought the stuffed bunny, she had a new problem. Discuss the following:
    - What was her new problem? (*She wanted to buy lots of toys for the stuffed bunny.*)
    - Will she be able to buy all of the things she wants for Little Betty? (*No*) Why not? (*She doesn't have enough money.)*

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13. Tape copies of *Visual 1.1: Toys* in a row along on the board. Give each student a 5"× 8" index card. Instruct the students to write their first name on the card. Point out the pictures of toys on the board. Tell the students that these are some of the toys Betty Bunny wanted to buy for Little Betty. They are each going to vote for one toy they think Betty Bunny should buy. Have each student come to the board and vote for the toy they think Betty Bunny should buy by taping their name under that toy.

14. Have the students count with you the number of votes for each toy. Discuss the following:
    - Which toy got the most votes?
    - Which toy got the fewest votes?

15. Select individual toys and ask students which toys got more votes or fewer votes than that toy.

16. Tell the students you are going to teach them a new song, "Choices, Choices." It is sung to the tune of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean." Show *Visual 1.2: Song*. Sing each line in turn and have the students repeat it.

Closure

17. Distribute a copy of *Handout 1.1: Wants* to each student. Read each want statement (A, B, and C) and ask students to circle the two items that satisfy that want.
    A. Betty Bunny wants some fruit. Circle the two items that satisfy her want. (*The apple and the grapes*)
    B. Betty Bunny wants something to keep her warm. Circle the two items that satisfy her want. (*The jacket and the sweater*)
    C. Betty Bunny wants a toy she can play with outside. Circle the two items that satisfy her want. (*The soccer ball and the basketball*)

18. Provide each student with a copy of *Handout 1.2: Make a Choice*. Tell the students the handout shows two things they could buy for school, a box of crayons and a fancy pencil. Because they don't have enough money to buy both items, they must make a choice. Instruct the students to circle the item they want and put an "X" through the item they didn't choose.

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Extension Activity Suggestions

Creative Play

- Place a child-sized shopping cart (or a box) on the floor. Instruct the students to get a toy from the play area. Tell them they can play with only the toys that fit in the cart. Make sure the cart is small enough that all of the toys will not fit. Ask the students to identify the problem.

Literacy

- Read *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* (ISBN: 978-0-06-024586-03), *If You Give a Moose a Muffin* (ISBN: 978-0-06-024405-7), or *If You Give Pig a Pancake* (ISBN: 978-0-06-026686-8) by Laura Numeroff and list all the wants that the mouse, moose, or pig had; or read *The Berenstain Bears Get the Gimmies* by Stan and Jan Berenstain (ISBN: 978-0-394-80566-5) and list all the wants Brother and Sister Bear had.

Math

- Ask the students to count the number of people in their individual families and compare as follows: Who has the most people in their family? Who has the fewest people in their family? Who has the same number of people in their families?

Social

- Identify the members of Betty Bunny's family in the story *Betty Bunny Wants Everything* and then have students identify members of their families.
- Ask the students to role-play and act out the part of the story *Betty Bunny Wants Everything* where Betty's mother tells her that she can't have everything she wants. Discuss what behavior would be more appropriate. Have students role-play that part of the story again and use appropriate behavior.

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Visual 1.1: Toys (page 1 of 5)

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Visual 1.1: Toys (page 2 of 5)

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Visual 1.1: Toys (page 3 of 5)

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Visual 1.1: Toys (page 4 of 5)

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Visual 1.1: Toys (page 5 of 5)

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Visual 1.2: Song

Choices, Choices

(Tune: "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean")

Betty Bunny wants so many things.
Her mom says that Betty must choose.
No, Betty can't have all she wants,
There are things that Betty must lose.

Chorus

Choices, choices,
Oh, we can't have all that we want, we want.
Choices, choices,
Oh, scarcity means we must choose.

We all want to have lots of things.
Like Betty we all have to choose.
And when we choose things that we want.
There will be some things that we lose.

Chorus

Choices, choices,
Oh, we can't have all that we want, we want.
Choices, choices,
Oh, scarcity means we must choose.

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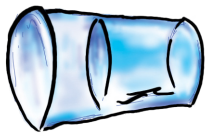
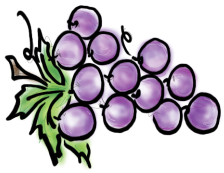
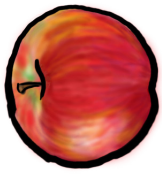
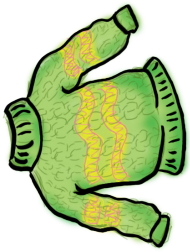
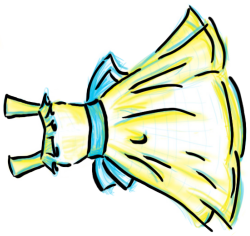
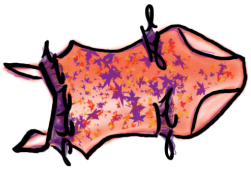
Handout 1.1: Wants

A. Betty Bunny wants some fruit. Circle two items that satisfy her want.

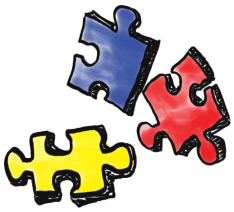





B. Betty Bunny wants something to keep her warm. Circle two items that satisfy her want.

B. Betty Bunny wants a toy she can play with outside. Circle two items that satisfy her want.



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Handout 1.2: Make a Choice

Directions: Circle the item you want, and put an "X" through the item you didn't choose.

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