10 Minutes of Social Studies: Scarcity

*Lessons from the Dr Pepper Museum to help you teach economics concepts, even in the midst of a busy day.*

Objective: SWBAT define and apply the concept of scarcity.

TEKS: 3.6 A B

(6) Economics. The student understands the concept of the free enterprise system. The student is expected to:

(A) define and identify examples of scarcity;

(B) explain the impact of scarcity on the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Day | Tool | Connection |
| Day 1 Engage | Do:  In small groups, students will create their own definition of scarcity after reading an example of scarcity on a strip of paper. | Say:  Tell students that *“Scarcity is the fact that people have unlimited wants, but there are limited resources. Because of scarcity, people must have choices.”* |
| Day 2 Explore | Play Video:  As a class, watch a video about a product or business that has scarcity: [Bees](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HoJnX-vPns0) | Ask:  As a class, ask students to answer the question: *“How can scarcity of a resource change business?”* |
| Day 3 Explain | Read:  As a class, read the article about how metals are found and manufactured: [Ore](https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/ore/3rd-grade/) | Discuss:  As a class, discuss what the result of ore scarcity is and could be (where they have looked, how it is produced, how it is used…). |
| Day 4 Elaborate | Do:  In small groups, ask students to pretend like they are a soda company. Their company only has three delivery trucks that can drive 1,500 miles each. Ask your students to draw delivery truck routes for their limited trucks on the map of Texas. | Say:  Explain that *“Because there is a scarcity of delivery trucks or scarcity of money to pay delivery trucks, you must choose which places will receive a delivery and which will not.* |
| Day 5 Evaluate | Play Video  As a class, watch a video about resources students use: [Crash Course Kids Resources](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LfD_EKze2M) | Ask:  As individuals, students will respond to the following question: *“Why do people live in places where they can find things they need or want? Where does your family find what it needs and wants?”* |

Delivery Truck Scarcity

*You are the owners of a soda company and it is up to you to transport your delicious soda to stores. The problem is that you have a limited number of delivery trucks and each truck can go a limited distance.*

Draw the delivery truck routes for your soda company with your limitations in mind:

1. Your factory is in Waco Texas.
2. You only have 3 delivery trucks.
3. You can pay for 1,500 miles of gas in total.

