

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY UNIT

This unit of study is designed to help your students learn about the taxes they'll be paying throughout their lives and how the federal deficit and national debt affect the economy and their future.

Each activity is self-contained so you may use them all or choose only those that best fit your lesson plans, time schedule, and students' abilities. A two page examination is also included.

The arithmetic used in this unit involves the four basic operations and percentages. The math activities vary in difficulty from simple addition and subtraction to multi-step computations.

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SURPLUS AND DEFICIT

Year	Receipts (In Billions)	Outlays (In Billions)	Surplus or Deficit (-)
1975	279.1	332.3	_____
1976	298.1	371.8	_____
1977	355.6	409.2	_____
1978	399.6	458.7	_____
1979	463.3	503.5	_____
1980	517.1	590.9	_____
1981	599.3	678.2	_____
1982	617.8	745.7	_____
1983	600.6	808.4	_____
1984	666.5	851.8	_____
1985	734.1	946.4	_____
1986	769.2	990.5	_____
1987	854.4	1004.1	_____
1988	909.3	1064.5	_____
1989	991.2	1143.7	_____
1990	1032.0	1253.2	_____
1991	1055.0	1324.4	_____
1992	1091.3	1381.7	_____
1993	1154.4	1409.5	_____
1994	1258.6	1461.9	_____
1995	1351.8	1515.8	_____
1996	1453.1	1560.6	_____
1997	1579.3	1601.3	_____
1998	1721.8	1652.6	_____
1999	1827.5	1701.9	_____
2000	2025.2	1788.8	_____
2001	1991.0	1863.9	_____
2002	1946.1	2052.3	_____
2003			_____
2004			_____

*WHAT FACTORS HAVE CAUSED THE DEFICIT
TO RISE IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING
DECADES?*

1970-79 _____

1980-89 _____

*WHAT FACTORS LED TO A SURPLUS IN
1998 - 2001?*



Name: _____

Class: _____

Period: _____

Senator Marsha Cantrel has been considering several bills that would replace the current federal income tax system.

She's asked your opinion on each of the following tax methods to help her decide how to vote on each bill.

1. Keep the current federal income tax system:

2. Replace the current progressive tax rate with a flat tax: (everyone pays the same rate):

3. Replace the current federal income tax with a national sales tax:



SAMPLE
DO NOT
REPRODUCE