

# Budget Planner

## Goals

- To note and compare prices
- To use addition, subtraction and multiplication skills to compute cost and change
- To plan purchases within a specified budget

Purchases			
Name of Item	Price	Quantity	Cost

**Overview:** Students research and compare prices of items they'd like to purchase. They plan a budget based on available funds, compute the cost of proposed purchases, and calculate the balance.

## Materials

- Copies of the "Budget Planner" activity sheet
- Advertising materials with prices for materials students might purchase such as snack foods, crayons, markers, toys, sports equipment, or video games.

## Directions

1. Give students a "budget" and ask them to think about ways they might spend the money. Bring in sales materials for students to use, and ask them to do the same. Have them research prices at area stores, in newspapers and catalogs, or online. If you want, make a list of specific items students might purchase and ask them to identify the best price they found for each item.
2. When students have completed their research, give them copies of the "Budget Planner" activity sheet. Tell students to decide what items they'd like to buy and complete the form by filling in the name of the item, quantity of each item, total cost per item and the grand total. (Older students can compute and add tax.) Then have students figure their change.
3. Ask students to share and compare their budgets. How many students stayed within their budgets? Who came closest to spending exactly what they had? Who had the most change? Did anyone spend more than his or her budget?

### Stationery Studio Extensions

- Make a budget for a school party or a family trip.
- Give students extra budget sheets and challenge them to plan their next real-world shopping trip.
- Use a *Stationery Studio* border to design a check template and print 4-per-page for a checkbook activity.