



**Time
Required:
15 minutes**

**Grade Level:
9-12th grades**

Skills for the 21st Century Marketplace Activity

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“Think Outside the Box” Activity

Infusionomics Themes, Keystone Economic Principles, and Skills for the 21st Century Marketplace:

- **THEME: COSTS**

- **Keystone Economic Principle™ #7:** Economic thinking is marginal thinking
- **Skills:** 7. Critical Thinking; d. Solve Problems; i. Solve different kinds of non-familiar problems in both conventional and innovative ways
- **Skills:** 8. Contextual Learning; b. Flexibility; iii. Understand, negotiate and balance diverse views and beliefs to reach workable solutions, particularly in multi-cultural environments

- **THEME: RESOURCES**

- **Keystone Economic Principle™ #4:** Economic systems influence choices
- **Keystone Economic Principle™ #8:** Quantity and quality of resources impact living standards
- **Skills:** 14. Creativity and Innovation; 14.a-c
- **Skills:** 17. Communication and Interpersonal Skills; b. Teamwork
- **Skills:** 17. Communication and Interpersonal Skills; d. Dealing with Conflict

- **THEME: INCENTIVES**

- **Keystone Economic Principle™ #9:** Prices are determined by the market forces of supply & demand...

** For additional standards and content references, please see the [end of document](#).

Overview:

In the Think Outside the Box activity, students are put into groups, and each group is given one object – such as a broom or roll of toilet paper. Each group must come up with a list of alternative uses for their item. The team with the longest list wins.

Objectives:

This activity will help students think outside the box and use their creativity to see the possibilities in a single object.

Materials and Handouts:

Empty cereal box Paper plate
Broom Box of paper clips
Roll of toilet paper

Activity:

- Split the class into 4 groups (or fewer depending on the number of students in the class), and have the teams sit together.
- Hold up the empty cereal box, and have a class discussion on the uses of the cereal box.
 - How is this box traditionally used? (Answer: to hold cereal)
 - What are some other ways this box could be used? (Answers will vary, but examples include using it as a container to hold other objects, burning it for fire, shredding and using it to pad a package, cutting along the edges and writing on it to make a sign, etc.)
- Explain that with any object, we can find other uses if we think creatively.
- Hand one group the broom, one group the roll of toilet paper, one group the paper plate, and one group the box of paper clips.
- Tell the groups that they have 5 minutes to come up with a list of as many alternative ways to use their object as possible. The group with the most ideas wins. Tell the students upfront that any inappropriate ideas will be discarded with full teacher discretion.
- At the end of the 5 minutes, have each group share their list. Using discretion, eliminate any inappropriate or unrealistic ideas.
- Have each group add up the total number of ideas they came up with (minus the ideas that you vetoed). The group with the most ideas wins!

Additional Standards and Content References

Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics:

- Standard #1 : Scarcity
- Standard #2 : Decision Making
- Standard #3 : Allocation
- Standard #14 : Entrepreneurship

Partnership for 21st Century Life Skills Concept:

- Learning and Innovation Skills > Communication and Collaboration
- Learning and Innovation Skills > Creativity and Innovation > Think Creatively, Work Creatively with Others
- Learning and Innovation Skills > Creativity and Innovation > Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Life and Career Skills > Flexibility and Adaptability

National Content Standards for Entrepreneurship Education:

- Ready Skills, D. Communication and Interpersonal Skills; Group Working Relationships (D.23-D.26)
- Entrepreneurial Skills; A. Entrepreneurial Processes; Actualization; A.31 Use creativity in business activities/decisions
- Entrepreneurial Skills; B. Entrepreneurial Traits/Behaviors B.27 Demonstrate creativity

Keystone Economic Principles™:

- For more information: http://infusionomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Keystone_Cheat.pdf