



Time
Required:
10 minutes

Grade Level:
3rd-8th
grades

Skills for the 21st Century Marketplace Activity
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Things You Love

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

•**THEME: COSTS**

- Keystone Economic Principle™ #1:** We all make choices
- Skills:** 1. Personal Management, c. Initiative and Self-Direction
- Skills:** 2. Professional Development, a. Career Planning

•**THEME: RESOURCES**

- Keystone Economic Principle™ #6:** Do what you do best, Trade for the rest

•**THEME: INCENTIVES**

- Keystone Economic Principle™ #5:** What Matters to Me
- Skills:** 20. Motivation and Personal Traits; c. Strengths, Interests and Capabilities

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

Overview:

In this simple and quick activity, students will try their hand at bracketing to help them analyze their strengths and interests and determine what they are most passionate about.

Objectives:

To introduce a method for students to use to narrow choices and determine their passions and skills.

Materials and Handouts:

Handout #1 – Blank Brackets

Activity:

- Begin by asking students to think about things that they really love or things they really love to do. Have them share a few things with a partner. (Steer them away from the names of specific people.) Things like baseball, music, computers, etc. will come up.
- Introduce them to the handout.

- Focus their attention to the first set of brackets labeled “Things You Love”. Have students list the top eight things that they really love in the slots numbered 1-8.
 - Next have students carefully consider slots 1 and 2 and compare them. Each student should determine which one they love more and rewrite that item in slot 9.
 - Compare 3 and 4, 5 and 6, and 7 and 8 in the same way.
 - Then have students compare slots 9 and 10 and write the answer in slot 13. Then compare slots 11 and 12 and write the answer in slot 14.
 - Lastly have them compare the two and place that in the center.
- Next focus their attention on the second set of brackets labeled “Things You are Good At”. Have students list the top eight things that they are gifted at in the slots numbered 1-8. Repeat the process as above until one item is in the center.
- Have students share their brackets with a partner; then as a whole group. Look for commonalities between the two sets of brackets.

Writing Prompt or Class Discussion:

Here are some optional questions for writing prompts and/or class discussion.

- Did this bracketing method help you to identify your strengths? If so, how?
- What are some other ways to help you identify your strengths?
- What types of careers fit with what you love and what you are good at?
- Is it important to choose a career in which you are passionate about?

Additional Standards and Content References

Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics:

- Standard #2 : Decision Making; Cost/Benefit Analysis
- Standard #6 : Specialization; Production, Specialization, Gains from Trade

Partnership for 21st Century Life Skills Concept:

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving > Make Judgments and Decisions

National Content Standards for Entrepreneurship Education:

- Ready Skills, B. Entrepreneurial Traits/Behaviors; Personal Assessment; B.14 Determine Interests and B.15 Evaluate Personal Capabilities

Economics Vocabulary:

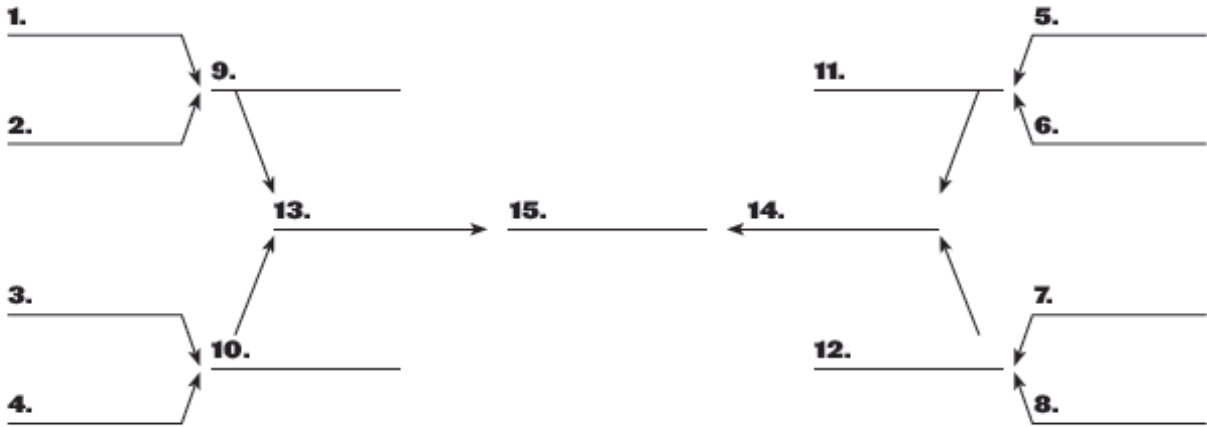
- **Specialization** - A situation in which people produce a narrower range of goods and services than they consume. Specialization increases productivity; it also requires trade and increases interdependence.
- Source: *EconEdLink.org* by the Council for Economic Education

Keystone Economic Principles™:

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

Handout #1 – Blank Brackets

Things You Love:



Things You are Good At:

