

Lesson 4: Cost of Living

Objective:
Students will learn that the cost of living differs across the US and how to find what it is for a given place.
Overview:
Students will explore and compare the cost of living in different cities, and the salaries for the same careers in those cities.

Lesson preparation:	Activity
<p>Teacher and students will need access to the internet.</p> <p>Open the PowerPoint for Lesson 4. Print copies of the Lesson 4 pre-test and post-test.</p> <p>Go to http://aspirations.sparc37.com/ and click on the Finances link at the bottom. Find the link in the table labeled "What is a living wage?" This is the link students will explore in this lesson.</p>	<p>Distribute copies of the pre-test, ask students to complete, and collect pre-tests. The pre-test will let students know what they should learn from this lesson</p> <p>Review the PowerPoint with students. You may need to revisit slides as you conduct the lesson activities.</p> <p>Go to http://aspirations.sparc37.com/ and click on the Finances link at the bottom. Find the link in the table labeled "What is a living wage?" This is the link students will explore in this lesson.</p> <p>Have students explore the website. Compare a living wage for one person in metropolitan area for Durham-Chapel Hill, NC. to Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA. Also compare the average salaries for different professions for those two metropolitan areas. Explore and compare living wages in different US cities.</p> <p>Distribute copies of the post-test, ask students to complete, and collect post-tests. Compare pre- and post-test results.</p>

Suggestions for Differentiation:	Discussion:
<p>To translate text into Spanish, right-click anywhere on the Living Wage website and choose the "Translate" option. Use the dropdown menu to select the preferred language.</p> <p>Have students who are having trouble reading the tables of information look only at the last row of the second table. This tells the annual salaries needed to live above the poverty rate.</p>	<p>Discuss how in some areas the minimum wage is well above the poverty wage, while in other cities minimum wage is below the poverty wage.</p> <p>Remind students that in the previous lesson, they saw that both the Durham-Chapel Hill, NC and Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA are areas with STEM careers. How do their costs of living and salaries compare? Ask them to consider: If someone is offered a job by a company with offices in Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA and also in Durham-Chapel Hill, NC and given the choice of which office to work in with the same salary regardless of their choice, where will their money go further?</p>