

## My Paycheck Activities

My Paycheck contains 14 current activities that let your students do so much more than just read and answer questions. They'll use their math skills, thinking skills, writing skills and creative skills while they learn about paychecks and how people are paid.

The activities are divided into the following three categories:

- Understanding Paychecks
- Fringe Benefits
- Be Creative

Each activity includes one or more reproducible student pages and a teacher's key with answers, suggestions and step-by-step math solutions where appropriate.

Listed below and on the following pages are detailed descriptions of each activity.

## My Paycheck Assessment

**An Assessment** is also included that can be used as a pre-test as well as a post-test to evaluate what your students have learned and to identify those areas that might require additional instruction.

The assessment includes:

- 20 True or False questions
- 3 multi-step math problems.

## Activity Descriptions

### Category 1: Understanding Paychecks

#### How Much You'll Make

Students will read a description of the factors that determine how much people are paid. They will calculate the annual wage and real wage for an electrician, a registered nurse and a fireman in eight different communities across the United States and decide which community they think each of the three should choose to live and work in.

#### How You'll Be Paid

Students will read the definitions of eleven different ways to be paid (i.e. salary, hourly wage, commission). They will decide which of the eleven methods of payment fit each of sixteen different occupations.

#### Six Paychecks

Students will calculate the net pay (take home pay) for six people who are all paid in different ways.

#### The Minimum Wage vs Movie Ticket Prices

Students will construct a graph comparing the change in the minimum wage and the change in movie ticket prices from 1980-2010. They will create a movie ticket price index for 1980-2010. They will also calculate the net, biweekly pay for a student working part time.

#### Which Job Should She Take

Alicia Wright has been offered three jobs in three different communities. Students will calculate her gross and net pay for each job and decide which job they think she should take. Statistics on each community are provided.

#### You Decide

Students must choose between two different ways of being paid for three different jobs and explain their choice.

### Category 2: Fringe Benefits

#### Getting Health Insurance

Students will do the calculations to complete a table illustrating the increase in health insurance premiums for employers and employees from 2000-2009. Using a chart that is provided, they will answer questions about the change from 2000-2009 in the number of businesses that offer health insurance to their employees.

#### Metropolitan Insurance

Students will use an outline of a company's health insurance policy to calculate the insurance company's payments toward the medical bills of several employees.

#### More Than The Salary

Students will read descriptions of 10 different types of fringe benefits. Students will read a list of fringe benefits being offered in two job descriptions and decide what questions they would ask about those fringe benefits before accepting the job.

#### Types Of Health Insurance

Students will read descriptions of 10 different types of health insurance. They will then read 10 different scenarios involving health insurance and decide which of the types of insurance would fit each situation.

### Category 3: Be Creative

#### Know Your Benefits

Students will design a poster that explains to new employees the various types of benefits they can receive from their employer and from the government.

#### Know Your Net

Students will design a poster that explains to new employees the difference between their gross pay and their net pay.

#### Letter To The Editor

Students will write an email to the editor of the local newspaper supporting or opposing a \$9.50 minimum wage that increases each year with inflation. They will write the email from the point of view of different people who would be affected by the minimum wage change.

#### Working Today

Students will play the part of a writer for the PBS series Working Today. They will write an outline for a thirty minute episode about how people are paid.

Whether you are paid an hourly wage, a yearly salary, a sales commission or in some other way, what you make is not what you get to keep. What you make is your gross pay. What you get to keep is your net pay.

The following six young people are all being paid in different ways. Use the directions provided to calculate the net pay for each.



**1. Reuben Garza just graduated from high school and has begun a five year apprenticeship as a machinist. His starting wage is \$8.25 an hour and he receives a paycheck every two weeks.**

**Compute his biweekly net pay using the following directions. Round all answers to the nearest cent.**

1. Biweekly Gross Pay:..... Multiply his hourly wage rate by the 80 hours he worked.
2. Withholding Taxes: ..... Multiply his biweekly gross pay by each of the withholding percentages.
3. Total Withholding:..... Add the total of withholding amounts.
4. Biweekly Net Pay:..... Subtract his total withholding from his biweekly gross pay.

Biweekly Gross Pay	\$ _____
Withholding:	
Fed Income Tax (5.0%)	\$ _____
State Income Tax (5.6%)	\$ _____
Social Security (6.20%)	\$ _____
Medicare (1.45%)	\$ _____
Union Dues (1.0%)	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____
Biweekly Gross Pay	\$ _____
Minus Total Withholding	- \$ _____
Biweekly Net Pay	\$ _____

Sample

Biweekly Gross Pay	\$ _____
Withholding:	
Fed Income Tax (9.2%)	\$ _____
State Income Tax (3.5%)	\$ _____
Social Security (6.20%)	\$ _____
Medicare (1.45%)	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____
Biweekly Gross Pay	\$ _____
Minus Total Withholding	- \$ _____
Biweekly Net Pay	\$ _____

**2. Rachel Thornton works as a surveyor for Consolidated Commercial Construction. She receives a biweekly paycheck and is paid \$12.50 an hour for the first 40 hours of work each week and time and a half for overtime. During the past two weeks she worked 86 hours.**

**Compute her biweekly net pay using the following directions. Round all answers to the nearest cent.**



1. Biweekly Gross Pay: ..... (A) Multiply her regular hourly wage rate by the 80 hours she worked.  
(B) Multiply her overtime hours by her overtime wage rate.  
(C) Add your answers to A and B.
2. Withholding Taxes: ..... Multiply her biweekly gross pay by each of the withholding percentages.
3. Total Withholding: ..... Add the total of the withholding amounts.
4. Biweekly Net Pay: ..... Subtract her total withholding from her biweekly gross pay.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Jessica Patton just graduated as a registered nurse. She is planning to apply for the position shown in the ad on the right. What questions do you think she should ask the human resources director about each of the following fringe benefits being offered?

2-5 Weeks Annual Vacation:

\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

10 Paid Holidays:

\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

Sick Leave:

\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
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\_\_\_\_\_

Health Insurance:

\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

401K:

\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Period:

Iowa City VA Medical Center

The following opportunities are immediately available

Inpatient RN and ICU RN

- Weekend & off-tour shift differential
• 2-5 weeks annual vacation
• 10 paid holidays
• Tuition support program
• RN Career Advancement Programs
• Sick leave
• Health insurance
• 401K

Contact Human Resources at 555.555.5555

The Dept of Veterans Affairs is an equal opportunity employer

Sample