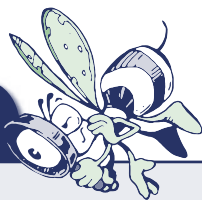


FACTivity



In this FACTivity, your class will determine the average net economic value of five different music CDs. You can also do this activity by determining the average net economic value of a single music download, of DVDs, or of any product or service that most of you are likely to purchase. If most of your classmates do not purchase their own CDs, select a product or service that must be paid for out of allowance money.

Create a list of CDs and then write each CD name on a separate small piece of paper. Fold each piece of paper and place the pieces into a container. Your teacher will have one of your classmates select five pieces of paper from the container. These will be the names of the five CDs with which you will work.

Once you have selected five CDs, agree as a class on the price of each CD. This is the price that was paid to purchase the CD.

Create your own chart with six rows and four columns based on the following example. Add column headings identified in the example chart. Write the names of the CDs and the artists in column 1, the price paid to purchase the CDs in column 2, and what you would be willing to pay to purchase each CD in column 3. This can be any price but it should represent the maximum you would be willing to pay to purchase the CD. Calculate the net economic value for each CD by subtracting column 2 from column 3 and record in column 4.

Report your values for column 4 to your class. (*Note: if column 4 values are negative, the CD has zero net economic value.*)

Example chart for music CDs

Name of CD and of artist	Price paid to purchase	Maximum amount willing to pay to purchase	Net economic value (Subtract column 2 from column 3)

Now you will calculate the average net economic value for each of the five CDs. One student should write each classmate's values for the first CD in a list on the board. Add the values in the list and divide the total by the number of values in the list. This is the average net economic value of that CD. Do this

for each CD and write the average net economic values on the board.

Discuss the results of your calculations with your classmates. Are the average net economic values about equal for the five CDs? If there are differences between some of the CDs, why do you think this is so?

FACTivity Extension

Overnight, have each of your classmates ask their parents or guardians the same question regarding each of the five CDs. That question is "What is the maximum amount you would be willing to pay to purchase this CD for your own enjoyment?" Calculate again the average net economic value

of each CD from the viewpoint of your parents or guardians. Compare those values with the values you calculated from the classroom activity. Is the average net economic value of the CDs different for your parents or guardians than for your classmates? If so, why do you think that is?



If you are a Project Learning Tree-trained educator, you may use PLT Activity #50, "400 Acre Wood," as an additional activity resource.

Wondering About Wilderness

Take a moment to think about the difference between natural lands and more developed areas in and around cities and towns. You probably have seen some natural lands being developed for shopping centers, roads, houses, and other buildings. What was once a forest becomes something quite different. Did you know that some natural lands are legally protected from development? These lands are called wilderness. They are mostly found in the Western United States, but many wildernesses are found in the East as well. This article describes some of the benefits American citizens receive from wilderness, even if

they never visit a wilderness. For more information about wildernesses, read page 5 in this journal or visit <http://www.wilderness.net>.

