

FACTivity



Time needed:

Day 1: 15 minutes

Students will participate informally on days 2, 3, and 4 and keep a log of their activities.

Day 5: 25 minutes

Materials needed for each student:

Three copies of the log sheet on page 22.
A blank piece of paper and pencil.

In this FACTivity, you will receive an incentive to practice conservation at home and at school. At the end of the FACTivity, you will discuss your experience. The questions you will answer in this FACTivity are: What makes incentives work? What makes incentives fail?

Day 1:

After reading “Show Me the Money,” examine figure 3 and make a list of the types of incentives offered by the Federal programs. In a class discussion, identify and list other types of incentives. Think about the incentives offered by stores and other retail establishments to encourage a particular behavior, including free products, rebates, and coupons. Next, consider incentives that could be offered in your classroom to encourage a particular behavior. This might include special recognition over the loudspeaker, extra time in the media center, or an extra

dessert at lunch. Your class, along with your teacher, should agree on a particular incentive that would be of interest and value to most students.

Then, examine the log sheet on page 22 with other students and your teacher. Determine how much of the incentive you will receive for completing each conservation practice (or all conservation practices combined). This should be recorded in the last column of the log sheet.

For the next 3 days, voluntarily complete whatever conservation practices you choose. Check off each practice at its conclusion. You should certify that you have completed your sheets accurately by signing the log sheet.

Day 5:

Your teacher will collect the log sheets and distribute the incentives. In small groups, discuss your experience. In particular, answer the following questions:

- Did the incentive encourage you to complete the conservation practices? Why or why not?
- Would you have done these practices without the incentive? Why or why not?
- How is this incentive like the ones described in the article? How is it different?

Your teacher will then hold a class discussion to answer the questions posed at the beginning of this FACTivity.

Daily Log Sheet

Date: _____

Practice	Done sometimes	Done every time	Incentive
I turned off all appliances when not in use			
I turned off all lights when not in use			
I unplugged all electronics when not in use			
I turned off the water spigot when not in use			
I used every piece of paper at least twice if possible			
I recycled every piece of paper after I was finished			
I recycled all plastic and aluminum			
I cleaned up all litter that I saw			
I adjusted the thermostat at least 1 degree further than I normally would have (warmer in summer, cooler in winter)			
I shortened my shower by at least 1 minute			
I reused at least one thing that I would have normally thrown away			
If one incentive is used for all practices, describe:			

Student signature _____ Date _____