OKMM
Oklahoma Money Matters

CREDIT LESSON PLAN

ITEMS NEEDED

Items Needed:

- Print or share digital copies of OKMM's Your Money Matters High School Guide.
- Print copies of the *Choose the Right Card* activity.
- Print copies of the *Crash Course in Credit* information.
- Print copies of the *Credit Activity*.
- Optional: Access to an online credit calculator.

OPENING DISCUSSION

- Is using credit good or bad? Why?
- Why is credit important in everyday life?
- Are 'Buy Now, Pay Later' apps like Klarna or Afterpay a smart choice or a risky habit? Why?
- How have your parents' or guardians' habits with credit or payment apps, like Venmo or credit cards, influenced how you think about spending?

CONTENT

Your students may have very different opinions about credit, and those opinions often come from what they've seen at home, what their friends think, and what they experience online.

Today, credit isn't just about traditional credit cards. It's built into many of the tools and apps people use every day, like online shopping sites and mobile payment apps. Students may already be using or seeing credit through features like 'Buy Now, Pay Later' (BNPL) options, payment plans, or digital wallets — even if they don't realize they're using credit.

Throughout this lesson, students will learn how to:

- Understand the importance of building a strong credit history
- Mange credit responsibly.
- Understand what a FICO score is and why it's important.
- Monitor and protect their credit report.

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITY

Review the *Crash Course in Credit* (pages 10-11) in OKMM's Your Money Matters High School Guide to introduce the fundamentals of credit. Have students read this section and be prepared to discuss the following questions:

- What factors make one person more 'creditworthy' than another?
- Why do some people struggle with debt? Do smaller payments make something seem easier to afford than it really is?
- Why isn't credit extended to everyone, regardless of their age or financial experience?

ACTIVITY

Now that students understand the basics of credit, have them work in groups to compare different credit options.

- Give each student a copy of the *Credit Activity* worksheet. Ask them to use BankRate.com to find a credit card with an interest rate (APR) of 22% or lower.
- As groups share what they found, make sure they can explain key details like the APR, any fees, and rewards or benefits.
- Have students also look at digital credit options, such as BNPL services and payment plans from online stores. Ask them to compare these options to credit cards in terms of how you repay the money, possible fees, and how easy they are to use.
- If students don't have internet access, provide printed examples of credit cards and payment plans so they can still complete the activity.

TEACHER'S NOTE

Use this opportunity to explain that not everyone is offered the same rates, terms, or perks when applying for credit.

- People with little or no credit history, or lower credit scores, are more likely to face higher interest rates, fewer rewards, and stricter terms when applying for credit.
- This applies not only to traditional credit cards, but also to newer digital credit options, which can vary widely in how they approve applicants and report activity to credit bureaus.

Credit is part of the digital financial world students are already entering. Understanding how it works now will help them make smarter decisions in the future.

To learn more about OKMM, visit our website OklahomaMoneyMatters.org.

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