

Volunteer Instructions:

REAL LIFE Game



Prior to Beginning:

You will be running this game 8 times during the day. During the game, you will be assisting the teams as they play the life size board game.

Opening Comments:

As students enter, ask them all to go to the same side of the room.

Explain that one of the challenges in real life is dealing with unexpected financial issues. Some examples: a roof leak, a car that breaks down, or some other unplanned event.

In Budget Builder, they have a chance to work on a budget plan. In this game, they deal with “what happens” in real life.

This game is based on the Milton Bradley “Game of Life”, with a few twists. You can hold up the game and ask “how many of you have played it?”

The goal is to complete the game by making decisions along the way and recording your score. The highest score of this round is the winner for our group. But the team with the highest score for the day is the overall winner and will receive a prize. This is a team competition.

The game is intended to simulate some of the “Real Life” issues that take place during your life. From starting work to retirement. Since that time period would literally last a life time, the game just takes glimpses at things that you may experience. In that sense it is not really “real”. It’s a game!

Team Assignments:

Based on the size of the group, divide the students into of 4-5 groups. Teachers may help with this effort. Once they are divided into teams, explain that the students will be playing the game as a team. They need to divide up the work.

Score Keeper: One student is responsible for keeping score. The score sheet has room for debits and credits. (Income and payments) As the team moves around the board, score keeper should keep a running total on their score.

Token: One student will act as the token and stand on the board as their position. Only one student from each team should be on the tiles (the other students can stand near their teammate but must stay off of the board).

Die: One student will be responsible for rolling the die. There are two, yellow and black. The black die is for movement on the board and only has 3 numbers on it. The yellow die is used for option cards. You only roll it when instructed.

Option Cards: One student is responsible for drawing option cards when directed. This student reads the instructions out loud to the group.

If there are more than 4 students on a team, they can rotate roles with team members or just help in making the decisions along the way.

Explanation on Game Instructions:

Explain to students that each tile has an instruction. The Token person should read the instructions out loud for their team members.

When you land on a “REAL LIFE Draw Card”, ask the volunteer for a card.

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Option Cards are found in the card holders on the nearby sign.

The Scorekeeper should remember to keep a running total of your team's score by adding or subtracting from your balance. **Each team starts with \$1,000.**



Beginning Play:

Ask one team to come to the start position and make their first decision. Then roll and move forward.

As soon as the first team has moved forward, start the second team. Allow a roll or two to take place to spread out the teams.

Continue this process until all teams are on the board.

Completion of Game:

As teams finish the game, collect the scorecard from each team and make sure all student names are listed.

Ask students who have completed the game to move to the side and sit down to wait for the other teams to finish the game.

Collect dice and cards from the students.

Summary and Wrap up:

Note: One of the challenges is keeping the teams that have finished early engaged. It's a good idea for one of the volunteers to stay with those teams and interact with them using the questions.

- Who chose to pick a career vs. going to college? What happened to your earning potential?
- Who chose to rent vs. buying a home? It looked pretty bad for homeowners most of the game until you got to the end.
- How about retirement? Who chose not to do a 401k plan at their company? Do any of you know what a 401k plan even is? It is a retirement plan offered by many employers.
- Did anyone choose continuing education? What happened to your income if you did?
- Who can share an observation you had about playing REAL LIFE?

After all teams have completed the game. Thank the students for their participation and tell them to enjoy the rest of their day!

Once students have left, quickly straighten the pieces and refill score sheets and be ready for the next group.

Keep the winning score sheet and discard the others. JA staff will collect it at the end of the day. Thanks!