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Economic Mysteries

Part A: Activity 9: Why Do the Cups Disappear from Room 103?

Handy Dandy Guide (Economic Principles used to solve the Mystery)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. People choose to do the things they think are best for them.2. People's choices have costs.3. People choose to do things for which they are rewarded.4. People create rules that affect our choices and how we act.5. People gain when they freely decide to trade with one another.6. People's choices today have future results.	
True False Questions (Clue/cues to solving the mystery – type out and answer):	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ms. Jackson's class learned how to do a magic trick; making plastic cups disappear. [False]2. The students in Room 103 and thoughtless about the environment. [False]3. The students owned the cups Ms. Jackson bought. [False]4. Owning things is like a reward. [True]5. Ms. Jackson's cups were "free" to the students. [True]
Solution to the Mystery (Use relevant Economic Vocabulary – see Principles and handouts):	Ms. Jackson chose to provide plastic cups for the students so they could fill their cups with water from the nearby restroom. Ms. Jackson's choice has a cost. Ms. Jackson has been spending money on average 200 cups a week over the past four weeks, therefore, wasting/ going through too many cups. Ms. Jackson rewarded the children by providing them with cups to get cups of water instead of just one drink. Ms. Jackson gained respect from her students when she provided them with cups which most teachers do not. Ms. Jackson is wondering why 25 environmentally friendly kids use up so many plastic cups? If we break down the math, there are 25 students that go to school 5 days a week and 200 cups are being used within those 5 days. That means each kid is AT LEAST using 1 cup per day; some kids even more. The students aren't being

	<p>resourceful and Ms. Jackson needs to set some rules. The main rule should be the students are allowed 1 cup each for the entire day. The second rule should be to write their first and last name, in sharpie, on the cup. The third rule should be if the students misplace/ lose their cup, then they have to ask the teacher for a new one. The classroom would become more environmentally friendly with using fewer cups as a future result. That means each week the students should be using 125 cups instead of 200. For the future, that would be saving Ms. Jackson money, and also the environment to impact our future in a positive way.</p>
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Part B: Write and Solve your own Economic Mystery

Title of your own mystery: Is Steal Worth Being Popular?

<p>Handy Dandy Guide (Economic Principles used to solve the Mystery)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People choose to do the things they think are best for them. 2. People’s choices have costs. 3. People choose to do things for which they are rewarded. 4. People create rules that affect our choices and how we act. 5. People gain when they freely decide to trade with one another. 6. People’s choices today have future results. 	
<p>Your original economic mystery scenario:</p>	<p>Ava does not have a lot of friends. The popular girl’s in her class make fun of her because her parents cannot afford to buy her designer clothes. Ava steals a pair of designer pants and a blouse from a designer store. She does not get caught stealing the clothes, but Ava feels guilty afterwards. The popular girls are now starting to like her because she has better clothes.</p>
<p>Focus Question:</p>	<p>Why does Ava steal the designer clothes?</p>
<p>True False Questions (Clue/cues to solving the mystery – create your own <u>and answer</u>):</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All the girls at Ava's school steal designer clothes to be popular. [False] 2. Ava felt really good after stealing. [False] 3. Being able to be the popular girls' friend is a reward for stealing the clothes. [True] 4. The popular girls are nice to Ava because she started wearing better clothes. [True]

Solution to the Mystery (Use relevant Economic Vocabulary – see Principles and handouts):

Ava chose to steal the designer clothes because she thought being the popular girl's friend was what was best for her. Ava chose to take the risk of getting caught stealing the clothes, in order to be friends with the popular girls. Ava was rewarded for stealing the clothes because the popular girls started to like her. The popular girls created the rule that in order to be friends they all had to have designer clothes, which was the reason why Ava thought it was okay to steal. Ava gained the popular girls friendship when she risked the idea of being called a thief in order to be their friend. Ava's stealing could turn into a habit, where she could eventually get caught and get into trouble with the law all because she wanted to fit in with the popular girls.