

Conservation Activity

ADD IT UP (Exploration, 20 minutes)

Use this activity to show how math skills are important for managing resources.

One way to avoid buying too much at the store is to add up the price of items as you put them in the shopping cart. This helps you stay within your budget when you reach the checkout line.

To practice adding prices, cut out the “shopping cards” found on the following page. Give each student a card and divide the class into teams with four or five students on each team. Each team will also need a pencil and paper to add up their numbers.

On your signal, each team should work together to add their shopping cards to reach a total. When finished, check their answers to see which teams added their shopping cards correctly.

Supplies: shopping cards, blank paper, pencils

Variations:

- To add more easily, show students how to round prices to the nearest 25¢ or 50¢.
- Have the teams swap cards with one another and repeat the game.
- To simplify for young children, make “shopping cards” with whole dollars and no cents.
- To challenge older students, give each student the entire sheet of “shopping cards” (do not cut them out) and have students add up all the items listed.
- Challenge students to try this shopping technique in real life and share their experiences with the class.



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SHOPPING CARDS

Cut out the cards and give one to each student. Or give older students the entire page to practice their math skills.

Bag of Apples \$4.49	Paper Plates \$3.09	Napkins \$3.09
Green Beans \$.99	Lemonade \$2.99	Lettuce \$1.79
Ice Cream \$5.49	Butter \$4.29	Ketchup \$2.24
Strawberries \$3.99	Peanut Butter \$2.29	Cereal \$3.99
Bag of Chips \$2.49	Potatoes \$2.99	Cheese Slices \$2.79
Loaf of Bread \$2.19	Ground Beef \$4.49	Gallon Milk \$3.69

