CREATE: Your Savings Goals

⏱30 min

❖ **Teacher Tip:** (Optional) Use this activity with the corresponding Canva template.

We all know that saving money is good for us, but it can be difficult to save regularly. One of the most effective ways to help you save is to set savings goals for yourself and identify ways to keep yourself accountable. In this activity, you'll identify what your savings goals are, calculate how much you need to save, and write a letter to your future self to help you reach your goals.

Part I: Identify Your Savings Goals

1. Using post-it notes, small pieces of paper, or a piece of scrap paper, brainstorm specific savings goals you would like to meet. These goals can vary from small (saving for a new pair of sunglasses) to big (saving for college). Aim to come up with at least 15-20 ideas.

2. Now sort your ideas into three piles:
    a. Short-term goals: goals you would like to achieve within two months
    b. Medium-term goals: goals you would like to achieve from within two months to three years
    c. Long-term goals: goals you would like to achieve three or more years out

3. Fill out the table below using the piles you created.

Short-Term Goals < 2 months	Medium-Term Goals 2 months - 3 years	Long-Term Goals > 3 years

4. Which goal, in each category, would motivate you most to save? Why?
    a. Short-term:

    b. Medium-term:

    c. Long-term:

5. Let's say you have a part-time job and you're able to save $100 per month from your paychecks. How would you distribute the money between your 3 savings goals above? Explain your reasoning.

Part II: Calculate How Much You Need to Save

Now that you've identified what your savings goals are, it's important to think about how much you would need to save on a regular basis so that you can reach those goals! Read through the following example on how Sanjana calculates how much she would need to save to buy a new computer. Then, answer the questions that follow.

Sanjana wants to buy a computer that she can use for school next year which is 9 months away. She discovers that she can buy a computer for $400 at a discount electronics store in town.

- How much does Sanjana have to save every MONTH to buy the computer?
  ANSWER: $400 / 9 months = $44.44/mo
- How much does Sanjana have to save every WEEK to buy the computer?
  ANSWER: $44.44 / 4 weeks = $11.11/wk
- How much does Sanjana have to save every DAY to buy the computer?
  ANSWER: $11.11 / 7 days = $1.59/day

6. Now it's your turn. Pick either your medium- or long-term savings goal from Question 4 and write it down below.

7. Conduct research online to figure out a rough estimate of how much you would need to save to reach your goal. Write the figure below.

8. How many months or years away would you like to achieve your goal? Choose a reasonable time frame.

9. Now, do the math! Calculate how much per month, week, and day you'll need to save to reach your goal.

Month:
Week:
Day:

10. Brainstorm at least 3-5 strategies you can use to save towards your goal.

11. Why is it helpful to break down the total amount you would need to save on a monthly, weekly, or daily basis?

Part III: Keep Yourself Accountable

So far, you've identified what your goals are, how much you need to save, and strategies you can use to save regularly. Sounds like you're good to go, right? Not so fast! Saving also takes discipline, and you need to keep yourself accountable. One way to do this is to write a letter to your *future self* to remind you why you're saving in the first place.

12. In the space below, outline what your letter to your future self will look like. In the outline, be sure to:

    - Address yourself
    - Explain why you are writing this letter
    - Describe your savings goal(s) in detail and why you want to reach your goal
    - Identify any concerns you may have about meeting your goal
    - Outline specific steps you can take to address your concerns
    - Provide some words of encourage and close the letter

13. Now, using your outline above, write a letter to your future self. You can choose to:
    a. Write the letter in the space below or on a separate piece of paper. Plan to open the letter 1-5 years from now.
    b. Use a website like Email Your Future Self. Schedule the letter to be emailed to you 1-5 years from now.