

The Shared-Purse Challenge

Learning goal

Allocate a fictional shared budget and explain the trade-offs.

Preparation

Print the pupil pages. Let pairs calculate or reason with the three cards, then justify the answer. No real household data is needed.

Teaching flow

7 min**Hook**

Read the story aloud. Ask which card facts are known and what the class needs to find out.

13 min**Model**

Think aloud through task 1: Add the four jobs. Is the town plan balanced?

25 min**Practise**

Pupils tackle tasks 2 and 3. Ask which card fact supports each answer.

10 min**Discuss**

Discuss this likely misconception: This town is fictional. Do not present the numbers as a real national or Dutch budget.

5 min**Exit**

Use the reflection as the exit check: Why can a shared budget not give every service everything it wants?

Evidence of learning

Resources are limited; choosing more for one purpose leaves less for another.

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Model answers

1. $40 + 30 + 20 + 10 = 100$; the plan is balanced.
2. One valid plan: school 40, roads 25, clinic 20, park 0, bridge 15 = 100. Accept other justified totals.
3. Examples: roads, school or clinic; a trade-off explains what receives fewer counters and why.

Reflection check

Why can a shared budget not give every service everything it wants?

Look for: Resources are limited; choosing more for one purpose leaves less for another.

Watch for

This town is fictional. Do not present the numbers as a real national or Dutch budget.

Adapt the lesson

Support: Use 100 paper counters in bundles of ten.

Stretch: Consider a second surprise and explain which service you would protect.

Teach at home

Use one fictional card at a time. Let the pupil reason first, then check with the model answers.

Notes: what can the pupil already explain?

Teaching example: not personal financial advice.