

Ang Sining ng Pagpili: Economics and Sustainable Development

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, we will explore the fundamental concepts of Economics—Scarcity, Choice, and Opportunity Cost—and discover how these individual decisions shape the future of our planet through Sustainable Development (Likas-Kayang Pag-unlad).

Materials Needed

- Notebook and pen (or a digital note-taking app)
- "Resource Tokens" (can be 20 pieces of candy, paper clips, or pebbles)
- Three "Project Cards" (slips of paper labeled: "New Smartphone," "Beach Vacation," and "Eco-Friendly Business Start-up")
- Access to the internet for a brief research activity (optional)

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Define **Economics** and the core problem of **Scarcity** (Kakapusan).
- Differentiate between **Trade-offs** and **Opportunity Costs** in daily decision-making.
- Explain the importance of **Sustainable Development** (Likas-Kayang Pag-unlad) in managing resources.
- Create a "Sustainable Choice Plan" for a real-world scenario.

1. Introduction: The "Island Survivor" Hook

The Scenario: Imagine you are the leader of a small island. You have 100 hectares of forest. You can either cut down the trees to build a luxury resort (making money now) or protect the trees to ensure the island has fresh water and fruit for the next 50 years. You cannot do both fully.

Reflect: Why is this a hard choice? In your notebook, jot down what you would lose if you picked the resort, and what you would lose if you picked the forest.

Key Concept: This struggle is the heart of Economics. We have **unlimited wants** but **limited resources**. This is called **Scarcity (Kakapusan)**.

2. Body: The Core Concepts (I Do)

Economics is not just about money; it's the study of how people make choices to satisfy their needs and wants despite scarcity.

The Four Pillars of Economic Choice:

1. **Trade-off:** The act of giving up one thing to get another. (e.g., Choosing to study instead of gaming).
2. **Opportunity Cost:** The value of the *best alternative* you gave up. It's the "cost" of the thing you didn't choose.
3. **Incentives:** Things that motivate you to act (e.g., discounts, rewards, or even punishments).
4. **Marginal Thinking:** Asking "Is one more unit of this worth the extra cost?"

What is Sustainable Development (Likas-Kayang Pag-unlad)?

It is an economic framework that says we should use our resources to meet our needs **today** without ruining the ability of **future generations** to meet their own needs. It's about balance: Economic Growth + Social Welfare + Environmental Protection.

3. Guided Practice: The Decision Matrix (We Do)

Let's practice evaluating a choice using your "Resource Tokens." Imagine your tokens represent your "Energy and Time" for one week (20 tokens total).

Task: You want to start a "Zero-Waste Cafe" in your community.

- **Action A:** Use 15 tokens to buy cheap plastic packaging (Higher profit now, but high pollution).
- **Action B:** Use 15 tokens to invest in glass jars and a composting system (Lower profit now, but better for the earth).

Discussion Questions:

- If you choose Action B, what is your **Opportunity Cost**? (Answer: The extra profit/money from Action A).
- How does Action B align with **Sustainable Development**?
- What **Incentive** might the government give you to choose Action B? (e.g., Lower taxes for "green" businesses).

4. Independent Practice: The "Future-Proof" Project (You Do)

The Challenge: You are given a hypothetical budget of ₱10,000 to improve your school or local neighborhood.

Instructions:

1. Identify one problem (e.g., too much trash, lack of healthy food, or high electricity bills).
2. Propose a solution that follows the **Likas-Kayang Pag-unlad** principle.
3. Fill out the following **Success Criteria Table** in your notebook:

Criteria	Your Project Details
The Choice: What are you doing?	[Write your solution here]
The Trade-off: What are you giving up?	[What else could you have spent the money on?]

The Opportunity Cost: What is the best alternative lost?	[The #1 thing you sacrificed]
Sustainability Check: How does this help people 10 years from now?	[Explain the long-term benefit]

5. Conclusion: Recap and Exit Ticket

Summary: Economics is the science of making smart choices because resources are limited (Scarcity). When we make choices that consider the environment and the future, we are practicing Sustainable Development.

Exit Ticket (Recap): Answer these three questions before we finish:

1. In your own words, why is "Opportunity Cost" more than just a price tag?
2. Give one example of Scarcity you see in your own home.
3. Why is it "expensive" for a country to ignore Sustainable Development?

Differentiation & Extensions

- **For Advanced Learners:** Research the "Circular Economy" and write a one-paragraph summary on how it differs from a "Linear Economy" (Take-Make-Waste).
- **For Visual Learners:** Create a poster or a digital infographic showing the relationship between Scarcity, Choice, and Sustainability.
- **For Kinesthetic Learners:** Go around your house and find 3 items. Identify if they were produced "sustainably" (look at labels, materials, or country of origin).

Assessment Methods

- **Formative:** Participation in the "Island Survivor" and "Resource Token" activities.
- **Summative:** Completion of the "Future-Proof Project" table and the Exit Ticket questions, graded on the clarity of their understanding of Trade-offs and Sustainability.