

BLACK FRIDAY LESSON

KEY STANDARDS

- Compare 2- and 3-digit numbers. (2.NBT.4)
- Fluently add and subtract within 100. (2.NBT.5)

VOCABULARY

- Black Friday – The day after Thanksgiving, where many consumers go shopping and many retailers offer special reduced prices.
- Discount – A price that is less than the usual price for buying something.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- \$100 in play money for each student (Consider giving each student two \$20 bills, three \$10 bills, four \$5 bills, and ten \$1 bills.)
- Optional: Items to sell, such as pencils or drawings

SETUP – 5 minutes

Give \$100 in play money to each student. Explain that they are going to create a store with special Black Friday prices. Then students will go shopping.

DIRECTIONS – 35 minutes

- 1 Students have 15 minutes to create their store. They need to first decide what they want to sell (some examples: school supplies, plants, paintings). Then they need to create a catalog of every item in their store, along with the cost of each item. No item in the store can cost more than \$20.
- 2 Explain that the day after Thanksgiving is sometimes called “Black Friday.” On Black Friday, many stores offer discounts on what they sell. Students have 5 minutes to determine their Black Friday discounts. Every price should be less than the original price.
- 3 Break the class into groups of 2–4 students. Have each group member choose another member’s store to visit. Each student should try to spend all \$100 without going over. When students “buy” an item, the money is put aside and does not go directly to the student who created the store.

WRAP UP – 10 minutes

Once students have finished shopping, see who spent closest to \$100 without going over. Lead a discussion that gets students reflecting on how they spent their money.

- Did anyone spend exactly \$100?
- Was it hard to spend exactly \$100? Why or why not?
- How much money did you save off the original price?
- Who “saved” the most money?
- When does it matter how much money you save on a purchase? When does it not matter?

EXTEND

One way to extend the same activity to older grades is to allow prices with decimals (5.NBT.7) and have students compare not just the amount saved but the percent saved (6.RP.3c). To make the activity more realistic, replace Step 1 with giving students printed sales brochures from actual Black Friday sales and increase every student’s budget accordingly.