

How Does the Federal Reserve System Affect You?

A **high school** lesson plan companion to a visit to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York Museum and Learning Center



Focus Question

How does the Federal Reserve System affect you?

Lesson Objective/Teaching Point

Students will be able to articulate what a central bank is and what makes a central bank different from other banks.

New York State Education Department Civic Participation Practices

- History, geography, economics, and current events within our country and in our global society.
- Use techniques and strategies to be an active and engaged member of class discussions of fellow classmates' views and statements.
- Analyze and evaluate news (news literacy), media, social media, and other sources of information for accuracy, bias, reliability, and credibility.

This document contains both a pre- and post-visit lesson plan
Recommended Time: Pre-visit: 30 minutes; Post-visit: 15 minutes



Resources/Materials

Pre-Visit

- **Presentation: How does the Federal Reserve System affect you?**
- Downtown Alliance Map: https://issuu.com/alliancefordowntownnewyork/docs/lower_manhattan_map_front_april_5_2023
- What is the Fed? Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLyh5fSTLLw>
- Additional Videos: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLyh5fSTLLw&list=PL_oohi_O51Z85_lvnW-MUJCfmW_b4Eq5y&pp=iAQB

Post-Visit

- Kahoot! Tutorial Video: <https://youtu.be/rZUew1wlQts>
- Kahoot! Instructions: <https://kahoot.com/blog/2019/03/04/how-to-get-started-with-kahoot/>
- Post-Visit Kahoot!: <https://create.kahoot.it/share/post-visit-high-school/537cc6cf-aea5-4c46-8d22-a72d180c91e3>
- Additional Lesson Plans and Educational Resources from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York: <http://www.newyorkfed.org/outreach-and-education/ny-fed-content-for-educators>

Have questions about your upcoming visit?

Check out our FAQ page:

http://www.newyorkfed.org/aboutthefed/tour_reservation_faqs.html

Need more information? Email: frbnytours@ny.frb.org



Pre-Visit

Introduce the Lesson/Motivate Students

Remind students they will be visiting the Federal Reserve Bank of New York Museum and Learning Center soon!

Tell students that the Federal Reserve Bank of New York is a part of the Federal Reserve System (sometimes called “The Fed.”) Explain to students that in class today they will get an introduction to the Federal Reserve System.

Introduce the Lesson/Motivate Students

Display **Slide 2: *How does the Federal Reserve System affect you?*** Have students look at the picture of the building. Relay the information on the slide “This is the main building of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, also called the New York Fed. It’s in downtown Manhattan/ New York City and you will see a map on the next slide.” Ask students: What are some adjectives you would use to describe this building? (Expected student responses: “castle,” “fortress,” “old” ...) Tell students that they will be able to see it for themselves and can decide if it matches their description or if they would use any different words after seeing it in person.

Display **Slide 3: *Downtown Alliance 2023 Lower Manhattan Walking Map.*** Tell students the Federal Reserve Bank of New York is on the map, and it is located in the Financial District of Lower Manhattan, New York City. Show them the location of Federal Reserve Bank in the red circle on the map.

Display **Slide 4: *New York Fed Mission.*** Tell students that a mission statement or mission is a short description of the goals and values of a company or organization so that people can understand what they do. Have students read aloud the mission of the New York Fed: At the New York Fed, our mission is to make the U.S. economy stronger and the financial system more stable for all segments of society. Remind students of the adjectives they chose to describe the building. Ask students: How does the architecture of the building connect to the Fed’s mission? (Expected student responses: “stone looks strong,” “looks like it is protecting something” ...).

Display **Slide 5.** Have students watch the video: ***What is the Fed?*** After the video, ask the students to brainstorm and write down questions that they would like to ask the museum educator during their visit.

Display **Slide 6.** Have students name some of the banks they see in their neighborhood or other neighborhoods. (Answers will vary but we are looking for the names of commercial banks, like “Bank of America,” “TD Bank” ...) “What do people typically do at a bank?” (Expected student responses: Deposits, withdrawals, start an account, get cash)

Display **Slide 7.** Explain to students the role of a central bank: When a commercial bank (or a bank that people and businesses use) in your neighborhood needs to make a deposit, withdrawal, or get a loan, it can use a central bank. A central bank is a bank for banks. In the United States the central bank is called the Federal Reserve System, also called “the Fed.” The work of the central bank is done in different locations around the United States, and we will visit the New York Fed.

Display **Slide 8.** Go through the chart with students. Say, “This chart summarizes some of the similarities and differences between banks and central banks. You can see that many of the banking functions are quite similar. It has more to do with who the ‘customers’ are.”

Display **Slide 9.** Say, “Did you know that the Federal Reserve has an impact every time you visit an ATM, look for a job, or buy a pair of shoes? When you visit the Federal Reserve Bank of New York Museum and Learning Center the educator you meet there will connect the work we do at the Federal Reserve with its impact on your everyday life.”

Display **Slide 10.** Tell students that the Federal Reserve Bank of New York is in the Financial District in downtown New York City/Lower Manhattan. This is a historic district with many important buildings. In fact, construction of this New York Fed building began in 1921 and most of the building was completed by 1924. This map shows various historic buildings and landmarks. Have students identify three other places in downtown Manhattan that they have visited or would like to visit.

Wrap-up

Remind students of the date for the field trip to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and that a chaperone will bring the list of questions they made to ask the educator(s) in the museum.



Post-Visit

What did you learn?

Model/Teach

Explain to students that you want to play a game in *Kahoot!* to review some information from their recent visit to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. *If the class has not used Kahoot! before, use some of the attached resources to explain the software to the class.*

Kahoot!

PLAY HERE:

<https://create.kahoot.it/share/post-visit-high-school/537cc6cf-aea5-4c46-8d22-a72d180c91e3>

Answer Key:

1. Introduction
2. What is one word that describes your visit to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York? (answers will vary)
3. Who uses a central bank? Banks
4. How many districts are in the Federal Reserve System? 12
5. What are the responsibilities of the Federal Reserve System? All of the above
6. What does it say across the top of a dollar bill? Federal Reserve Note
7. Why are stable prices important? So people can afford the things they want and need
8. Which of these best describes the dual mandate of the Federal Reserve System? Maximum employment and price stability
9. People and businesses can store gold in the Gold Vault at the Federal Reserve. FALSE
10. How does the Federal Reserve System connect to your everyday life? (answers will vary)

