

Unit Guide

Taxation in Modern and Ancient Societies: Integrating Math and Social Studies

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This unit integrates math and social studies through the study of taxation in modern society and during the Babylonian Empire in a five day sequential unit plan. The first part of the unit focuses on why governments are given the power to tax their citizens. Through a jigsaw reading, the students understand that taxes are collected to fund public goods and services and certain programs. By participating in a close reading, the students learn that the citizens agree to give up some of their personal finances to ensure that their society is orderly. The second part of the unit develops the students' fluency in using decimals and percents so they will have a means to manage their money and understand governmental policies related to taxation. Mathematical knowledge related to percents will become a large part of my students' adult life. Consumers need to be aware of interest rates, tax rates, discounts, tips, and statistics. To build this knowledge, the students will use problem solving strategies to solve and create word problems related to different types of taxes.