

Activity 6 - Cooperative Facts

Time: 20 minutes

Objective: Students will learn some basic history and facts about cooperatives.

Step 1: Instruct students to take out their handouts called “Cooperative Fact Sheets.” Give them 3-5 minutes to read them silently to themselves.

Step 2: Tell students that they will play, “Find the Fact”. Have each material handler come up and get a white board for each cooperative. If the teacher does not have white boards, then have the reporter take out a notebook and a marker. Tell students that each group will get 30 seconds to find the answer to a fact question and write it on their whiteboard or notebook. At the end of the 30 seconds, each team will hold up their answers and accumulate points for each correct fact found. Team will use their “Cooperative Fact Sheet” to help them with this game.

Step 3: Give an example so that students understand the game. “Who is the founding father that organized the first successful US cooperative in 1752?” After 30 seconds, call time and have students hold up their answers. For the teams who wrote, “Benjamin Franklin” say, these teams would have gotten one point. Write the team names on the board to keep track of points.

Step 4: When teams understand the rules, begin the game. Below are sample questions/answers:

1. What year was the first cooperative in Wisconsin formed? A: 1841
2. What is the word that means, “The money left over after you pay all your expenses?” A: profit
3. What is the seventh principle of the cooperatives? A: Concern for Community
4. In 1935 President Roosevelt signed the REA Act to bring “what” to rural areas? A: Electricity
5. What percent of the US population are members in a cooperative? A: 40%
6. What state became one of the first states to legalize cooperative businesses, back in 1887? A: Wisconsin.
7. What month is National Co-op Month? A: October
8. What is the word that means, “Work done for others?” A: Service
9. What set of ideals were the 7 Cooperative Principles based on? A: Rochdale Principles
10. What state in the US has the most cooperatives? A: Minnesota
11. What is the word that means, “Money to be divided among stockholders.” A: Dividend
12. What is the word/phrase that means that “Coops are enterprises that put people at the center of their business.” A: The Co-op Difference”
13. What is the word that means, “A person who puts money into a business.” A: Investor

Activity 6 - Cooperative Facts (Continued)

14. What percent of milk produced by WI farmers are marketed through dairy cooperatives? A: 87%
15. Name 3 of your local cooperatives. A: This will vary depending on your town
16. What are two of the three basic interests of a cooperative? A: Ownership, Control, Beneficiary
17. What dairy product did Ann Pickett of Lake Miles pool together to form the first cooperative? A: milk (will accept cheese).
18. How many registered cooperatives are there in the state of WI? A: 1000
19. What is the word that means, “Working together for a common purpose or benefit?” A: Cooperation
20. What is the type of business that is owned by their members and driven by services rather than profits? A: Cooperatives

Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Date: _____

Activity 6 - Cooperative Fact Sheet

- **Cooperation:** Working together for a common purpose or benefit. The root of a cooperative is cooperation.
- **Cooperative:** Owned by their members and driven by services rather than profit.
- **Business:** A commercial or industrial establishment. A business is established for the purpose of earning profits for investors.
- **Profits:** The money left over after you pay all your expenses.
- **Dividend:** Money to be divided among stockholders, a bonus.
- **Goods:** Worth benefit.
- **Services:** Work done for others.
- **Investor:** A person who puts money into a business.
- **Why are Cooperatives Formed?** Co-ops are formed when the marketplace fails to provide the needed goods or services at affordable prices or of acceptable quality.
- **The Cooperative Business Model:** The foundation of the cooperative business model is that the owners are also the customers.
- **The Co-op Difference:** Co-ops are enterprises that put people at the center of their business not capital.
- **Rochdale Principles:** They are a set of ideals for the operation of cooperatives. They were first set out by the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers in Rochdale, England in 1844 and have formed the basis for the principles on which cooperatives around the world operate to this day.
- **The 7 Principles of Cooperatives:**
 1. Voluntary and Open Membership
 2. Democratic Member Control
 3. Member Economic Participation
 4. Autonomy and Independence
 5. Education, Training and Information
 6. Cooperation among cooperatives
 7. Concern for the community
- **Benjamin Franklin:** Organized the first successful U.S. cooperative in 1752. It was a town mutual insurance company that is still in business today.
- **1935 President Franklin Roosevelt** signed the Rural Electric Administration (REA) Act to bring electricity to rural areas. Most rural areas in WI didn't have electricity until President Roosevelt signed the REA.
- **The first cooperative in WI:** started in 1841 by Ann Pickett of Lake Mills. She pooled milk from neighbor's farms to make cheese. The proceeds were returned to her neighbors in proportion to the amount of milk they provided.

- **4 Facts about Wisconsin and Co-ops:**
 - **Wisconsin** became one of the first states to legalize cooperative businesses, back in 1887.
 - **The state of WI is second to MN** to having the most cooperatives.
 - **There are over 1,000** registered cooperatives in the state of WI.
 - **83% of milk WI farmers** sell is marketed through dairy cooperatives.
- **Cooperatives** are often small but their cumulative effect on the economy is large.
- **Cooperative businesses** create the multiplier effect by keeping money with a community.
- **Three Basic Interests of a Cooperative:**
 1. Ownership
 2. Control
 3. Beneficiary

~Only in the cooperative enterprise are all three interests directly in the hands of the user.
- In the United States **30,000 cooperatives provide more than 2 million jobs.** 2 in 5 people in the US are members of a cooperative, that's 40% of the population.
- **In your community you will find Co-ops in parts of**
 1. Farming and Agriculture
 2. The Farm Credit System
 3. Credit Unions
 4. Electric Utility
 5. Food and Grocery
 6. Housing
- **Local Cooperative Businesses:**
 1. People's Choice Credit Union
 2. Medford Cooperative
 3. Co-op Transport
 4. Taylor Credit Union
 5. United FCS
 6. Taylor Electric Cooperative
- **Other Businesses you may know that are Co-ops:**
 1. Cuttie Oranges
 2. Ocean Spray
 3. Sunkist
 4. ACE Hardware
 5. Nationwide Insurance
 6. Associated Press
 7. Organic Valley: They work with only family farms.
- **October** is National Co-op Month