

THE BEAN GAME

Living on a "20 Bean Salary"

Recreated and Reproduced by
Jana Darrington, M.S.
Family and Consumer Science Agent
Utah State University Extension, Utah County



Game Instructions

Purpose

Managing money means making choices. There is never enough money available for all of the things we'd like to have or do. This game will help you decide what is most important to you.

How to Play

This game may be played individually, but optimum results come from playing in a group of 2 or more. Divide participants into groups of at least 2 and not more than 5. Each individual/group receives 20 beans and a set of spending category sheets. The individual/group must decide how to spend their "income" based on life circumstances, values and goals. Each item has a set number of squares which indicates how many beans are needed to "pay" for that item.

ROUND #1

First, each individual/group must select one item in each of the categories with the gold stars (Food, Housing, Furnishings, Transportation, Insurance and Clothing & Laundry). Once you have finished selecting items in the required categories, continue selecting items until you have used up your 20 bean income.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why did you choose the items you did? In what ways were you influenced by your values? Your goals? Your previous experiences? Compare what you spent your beans on with another individual/group.

ROUND #2

Your income has just been cut to 13 beans. What will you give up? What changes will you make? Make changes until you only have 13 beans on your spending sheets.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What kinds of items did you choose to give up? Why? What did you learn about yourself and money in this process? Compare your budget-cutting choices with another individual/group.

OTHER CHOICES you may have to make...

- 1) Someone in the family just broke their leg. If you have insurance, you don't need to do anything. If you don't, take off 3 beans.
- 2) Your mom or dad just got a 2 bean raise! Decide where it should be spent.

RESOURCES:

Buker, L. (n.d.). *The Bean Game*. Washington State University Extension, Family Resource Management Specialist.
Office of State Treasurer John Perdue (n.d.). *The Budget Game: Living on a 20 Square Salary*. Financial Education Programs, Charleston, WV.
Retrieved October 26, 2008 from <http://www.wvtreasury.com>.

Distributed by:

Utah State University Extension, Utah County
100 E Center St., L600, Provo, UT 84606
801-851-8460
<http://extension.usu.edu/utah>



Utah State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.



Housing with Utilities



live with relatives sharing cost of utilities (no phone)

share an apartment or house with others, including basic utilities (no phone)

rent place of your own, including basic utilities (no phone)

Insurance



Auto

Liability coverage only

Complete coverage

Health and Disability

No coverage

No Cost

Fringe benefits of job

Basic health coverage

Individual health & disability coverage

Renters

Property and liability coverage

Communications



No cost

No phone

Phone with limited long distance calls

Phone with many long distance calls

Cell phone



High-speed Internet

Gifts



Make your own

Purchase cards or small gifts occasionally

Purchase frequent gifts for family and friends

Savings



Change in piggy bank

No cost

Five percent of income

No cost

Ten percent of income

No cost

Invest for retirement

No cost

Contribution to charities and religious groups

No cost

Furnishings



Borrow from relatives or friends

No cost

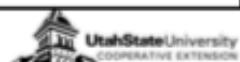
Rent furniture or live in furnished apartment

Buy at a garage sale or thrift shop

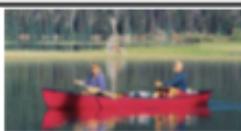
Buy new furniture

★ Gold Star denotes Required Category

Utah State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.



Recreation



Hiking, walking, visiting friends or library

No cost

TV, snacks, picnics, driving around



Cable TV, sports and movies



Fishing, hunting, hobbies



CDs/music, books, DVDs



Concerts, vacations & spectator sports



Personal care



Basic products like soap, shampoo, toothpaste, make-up, etc.



Occasional professional haircuts, basic personal care products



Regular professional hairstyling, name brand personal care products



Food



Cook at home; dinner out once a week



Frequent fast food lunches and weekly dinner out; cook other meals at home



All meals away from home



Transportation



Walk or bike

No cost

Ride bus or join a carpool



Buy fuel for family car



Buy used car and fuel



Buy new car and fuel



Clothing & Laundry

Clothing

No Cost



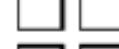
Use your sewing skills



Buy at a discount store, thrift shop, or used clothing store



Buy at a department store



Shop for designer clothes



Laundry

No Cost



Do laundry at parents



Use Laundromat; some dry cleaning



Rent or purchase washer or dryer

 Gold Star denotes Required Category



Utah State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.