

ANALYZING A CREDIT REPORT & SCORE SIMULATION

TEACHER SECTION

Simulation Overview & Objectives	Digital Literacy Tool: Mint Est time for activity: 45 Minutes
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Overview

At some point in our lives, we all will need or want to use credit. While attitudes about use of credit differ; all are graded in the same way as to how we use it. Credit reports and scores are the report card for credit users – and this evaluation of how we use it has an impact on future borrowing. In this activity, students will use real-world technology and the app **Mint** to follow Scott, his fictitious credit history, analyze his credit report and score, and finally answer reflection questions about how to ensure good credit and applying for loans.

Objectives

1. Develop an understanding of the information included in a credit report.
2. Analyze the elements of a credit report and credit score.
3. Summarize in an exit slip activity ways individuals can work towards building good credit.

Helpful Mint Videos

- Introduction and Logging in to Mint: <https://youtu.be/qowo0-5jNYY>
- Mint Credit Report & Score Video: https://youtu.be/69Ws7A_Zgh8

Take Charge Today Lesson Connection	TCT Lesson 2.6.1
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Analyzing a Credit Report and Score Simulation has been created as a real-world, hands-on technology simulation to accompany Take Charge Today Lesson 2.6.1 titled **Credit Reports and Scores**. If you have not taught this lesson plan, we recommend students are proficient in the credit concepts described in the section below titled, “What Teachers & Students Should Know”.

National Standards	
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- Jump\$tart National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education: Credit and Debt
 - Standard 2- Summarize a borrower’s rights and responsibilities related to credit reports
- Council for Economic Education (CEE) National Standards for Financial Literacy:
 - Standard IV: Using Credit
- National Business Educators Association (NBEA) National Standards: Using Credit
 - Analyze factors that affect the choice of credit, the cost of credit, and the legal aspects of credit

DISCLAIMER:

For students to be able to access Mint successfully, they must use the same computer or device every time they access Mint. Otherwise, they will be forced to re-create a new account.

Supplies	
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Basics:

1. Teacher Section
2. Student Section
3. Student Simulation Worksheet
4. Optional Student Resource
5. Answer Key

Supplemental:

1. Device per student
2. Print or digital copies of the Student Section & Worksheet
3. Sticky Note, Index Card or half sheet of paper to create an Exit Slip per student

What Teachers & Students Should Know	Developing Conceptual Understanding
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Before starting the Mint activity, teachers and students should know the following:

1. The definition and concept of credit.
2. That creditors analyze credit worthiness before lending money.
3. Understanding your credit history and how it affects your credit report.
4. The difference between “soft” and “hard” credit inquiries and how they impact your score.
5. Your right as a consumer to access your credit report for free each year.

What Students Will Do	Teaching Instructions & Time to Complete
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Students will do the following in this activity:

1. Go to **Mint** or **Mint.com**.
2. Log on using directions from the **Step-by-Step Guide** to access Mint as the fictional user Scott.

Upon logging into Mint:

1. Direct students from the Dashboard to the following tabs:
 - a. **Transactions** to see Scott’s debt payments
 - b. **Credit Score**
2. Near the end of the activity, at the bottom of the Credit Score tab, there is a link to an external website for TransUnion. Students will use that link to connect to TransUnion.

The following timeline is recommended for carrying out this activity with students:

- 2 minutes to read scenario about the Mint profile.
- 5 minutes for guided demonstration of Mint and the Credit Score tab.
- 25 minutes for students to explore Mint and complete the worksheet.
- 5 minutes for closing and check for understanding.

Assessing Learning	Exit Slips, Quizzes, Worksheets, & More
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By exploring **Mint** and answering the worksheet questions, students will be exposed to real-world financial tools. To assess student learning about credit reports and scores, an exit slip with a reflection question is included at the end of the student worksheet. Use of this formative activity may allow the teacher to check for understanding and/or have a follow-up discussion.

Expanding Student Learning**Mint & TCT Lessons Continued**

Listed below are five additional simulations connected with Take Charge Today lesson plans:

1. Budgeting for Income & Expense Simulation 1 Day and 3 Days
2. Finding Your Net Worth (*coming soon!*)
3. Comparing Savings Accounts Simulation
4. Evaluating Credit Card Offers Simulation