



Intuit Education: Curriculum Overview

- > Activity Descriptions
- > Directions for Teachers
- > Directions for Students
- > Standards



TAKE CHARGE TODAY

Financial Education for a Better Future



Activity Descriptions



The following have been created in a partnership between Intuit Education and Take Charge Today.

The five **Mint for Education** activities explore Mint while reinforcing personal financial literacy topics. All the activities follow Isaiah – our fictional Mint persona. As students spend more time in Mint, they will get to know more about Isaiah and be able to evaluate and make suggestions for how he can improve his financial health.

✓ **Introduction to Mint**

The purpose of this activity is to give first-time users a walkthrough of the different sections of Mint. This foundation is essential for having success in future activities.

✓ **Comparing Savings Accounts**

TCT Lesson Connection: Choose to Save/Savings Tools

This activity will first ask students to evaluate Isaiah’s savings account and habits. Then, students will evaluate other savings accounts offers and compare current interest rates.

✓ **Evaluating Credit Card Offers**

TCT Lesson Connection: Understanding Credit Cards

In this activity, students will see that Isaiah has a credit card and carries a balance with a high interest rate. Afterwards, students will explore credit card offers and select one that is best for Isaiah.

✓ **Analyzing a Credit Report & Score**

TCT Lesson Connection: Credit Reports and Scores

After completing this activity, students will understand the six components that impact a credit score and be able to explain the ways that Isaiah can improve his credit score.

✓ **Budgeting for Income and Expenses**

TCT Lesson Connection: Income and Expense Statement

The most interactive of all the Mint activities, students will first explore Isaiah’s daily spending habits and analyze trends. Then students will draw from their analysis to create a budget for Isaiah.

The estimated time for each of the above is 45 minutes, except for Budgeting for Income and Expenses which is a 3-part activity estimated at 90-120 minutes.

Activity Directions for Teachers



Overview

In these Mint activities, students will be learning about and getting to know **Mint** – a financial tool used by millions of people to manage their own finances. Since every person’s financial information is private, when students log in to **Mint**, they will be looking at fictional data for a person named Isaiah.

Who is Isaiah?

Each activity focuses on a different feature of Mint and emphasizes a different part of Isaiah’s financial life. Isaiah’s finances have been built to simulate a young adult who is financially independent including: transactions, purchases, debts, savings, and credit score.

Since this simulation uses the fictional persona of Isaiah – we recommend that students read Isaiah’s profile to understand who Isaiah is. This will lead to student success with these activities.

Isaiah’s Transactions

Isaiah has transactions imported daily from the Bank of Intuit. Additionally, Mint receives updates on a regular basis from financial institutions. As a result:

- The balances of all of Isaiah’s accounts can change daily. This includes his savings, checking and loans. This limits the ability to create one set answer key(s).
- Isaiah’s trends, budgets, and spending graphs are updated daily. Student analysis and conclusions drawn will vary by day and by month.
- The real-time offers in Mint’s Ways to Save for checking, savings, and credit cards may change. This too means that teachers cannot predict which offers students will evaluate.

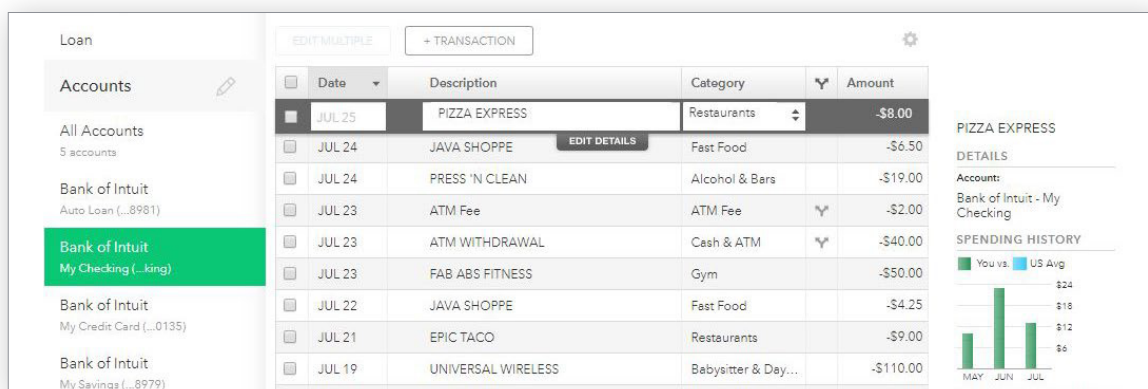


Figure 1: Transactions in Mint

When students first log into Mint, they will see the last three months (90 days) of transactions for Isaiah. Regarding these transactions:

- Some are frequently re-occurring such as Isaiah's regular coffee purchases, getting fuel for his car, and paying monthly rent.
- Some are infrequent such as when Isaiah goes to the movies, pays for a doctor visit, or buys an airline ticket.

Curriculum Alignment

All Mint simulations have been created as a real-world, hands-on technology activity to accompany a Take Charge Today curriculum lesson, as noted below. Intro to Mint is an introductory activity that is highly recommended to be completed first in order to have success with the other simulations:

- Budgeting for Income & Expenses: [Connects to TCT Lesson: Income and Expense Statement](#)
- Comparing Savings Accounts: [Connects to TCT Lessons: Choose to Save / Saving Tools](#)
- Analyzing a Credit Report & Score: [Connects to TCT Lesson: Credit Reports and Scores](#)
- Evaluating Credit Cards: [Connects to TCT Lesson: Understanding Credit Cards](#)

If you have not taught the connected lesson, we recommend students are proficient in the concepts taught in the lessons before using the Mint simulations. Those lessons can be accessed by clicking on the lesson link above or by visiting www.takecharge.today.arizona.edu.

Assessment

Teachers can consider how to best add assessment and accountability for these activities.

- Use the worksheets to assess student work. These worksheets contain a variety of open-ended, close-ended, objective, and subjective questions. Answer keys are provided for all activities including Intro to Mint.
- Use the provided post-tests as assessment. Financial literacy concepts reinforced throughout the activities are used as the basis for these tests.
- Consider supplementing these resources with additional student reflection, analysis, or discussion for your students.
- Additionally, each Mint activity has a short survey for students to complete for the Mint team to learn if students are reaching learning targets. As an incentive, students are asked to provide their school name and teacher email address. **Winning teachers will receive swag for their students and money for classroom supplies and needs.** For reference, the surveys are listed below:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/IntroToMint

www.surveymonkey.com/r/CompareSavings

www.surveymonkey.com/r/BudgetIncomeExpenses

www.surveymonkey.com/r/CompareCredit

www.surveymonkey.com/r/AnalyzeCredit

Success in Connecting to Mint

As outlined in the Connecting to Mint guide, after creating a Mint account, users must use the same device after logging out or to reconnect in subsequent days. Attempting to access Mint with a different device will not be successful. In that case, the user would have to create a new Mint account and re-connect to the Bank of Intuit.

Activity Directions for Students



Overview

In these Mint activities, you will be learning about and getting to know **Mint** – a financial tool used by millions of people to manage their own finances. Since every person’s financial information is private, when you log in to **Mint**, you will be looking at fictional data for a person named Isaiah.

Who is Isaiah?

Isaiah is in his 20s. He graduated from college and has a full-time salary paying job as a sound engineer at iMusic. In addition, Isaiah has side gigs around town to supplement his income. Isaiah has a checking account; he uses the debit card linked to that account to spend money daily. Isaiah also has a savings account. He developed consistent savings habits when he was young and transfers money each month into his savings account.

In addition, Isaiah has a credit card that carries a balance of around \$2000. Isaiah mainly uses the credit card now for gas and groceries. Sometimes Isaiah makes the minimum payment, sometimes he pays more. Isaiah’s other debt consists of an auto loan with a small balance and a college student loan that is over \$20,000. He makes the monthly required payments on each of those loans.

Isaiah has not made much of a plan for his financial life – he does not budget or think about the consequence of his spending habits. He keeps an eye on his checking account balance and knows about how much he can spend each month based on his income.

While Isaiah does save, he has not evaluated how much he ought to save nor does he evaluate the interest he is earning. Likewise, Isaiah has a credit card but does not pay attention to the finance charges. Isaiah is oblivious to the details of a credit score and report. Since he is usually on time with the payments for the one credit card and two loans that he has, he assumes he is in great financial shape.

Isaiah’s Transactions

Isaiah has transactions imported daily from the Bank of Intuit.

- Isaiah spends money or makes a purchase almost every day. Therefore, the balances of all of Isaiah’s accounts can change daily.
- Isaiah has savings, checking and loan accounts. Mint imports these and creates trends, budgets, and spending graphs, which also update daily.
- If you log in to Mint on different days, you will notice these changes.

Personal Finance National Standards



There are five Mint for Education activities that explore Mint while reinforcing personal financial literacy topics. The activities below have been aligned to national standards through the following:

- Jump\$tart National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education
- Council for Economic Education (CEE) National Standards for Financial Literacy
- National Business Educators Association (NBEA) National Standards

✓ Comparing Savings Accounts

Jump\$tart	Investing Standard 1
CEE	Standard III: Saving
NBEA	Evaluate savings and investment options to meet short- and long-term goals.

✓ Evaluating Credit Card Offers

Jump\$tart	Credit and Debt Standard 1
CEE	Standard IV: Using Credit
NBEA	Analyze factors that affect the choice of credit, the cost of credit, and the legal aspects of credit.

✓ Analyzing a Credit Report & Score

Jump\$tart	Credit and Debt Standard 1
CEE	Standard IV: Using Credit
NBEA	Analyze factors that affect the choice of credit, the cost of credit, and the legal aspects of credit.

✓ Budgeting for Income and Expenses

Jump\$tart	Spending and Saving Standards 1 and 2.
CEE	Standard II: Buying Goods and Services
NBEA	Develop and evaluate a spending/savings plan.

To see the national standards, click on one of the following links:

[Jump\\$tart](#) [CEE](#) [NBEA](#)