



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia Teachers' Institute
on Parliamentary Democracy

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Learning Activity: Show me the money!

Examining budgetary decisions, student values and party platforms.

Grade level / Big Idea:

Social Studies 10

The development of political institutions is influenced by economic, social, ideological, and geographic features.

Political Studies 11/12

Understanding how political decisions are made is critical to being an informed and engaged citizen.

Political institutions and ideology shape both the exercise of power and the nature of political outcomes

Foundations of Math 11

A statistical analysis allows us to notice trends and relationships

Provide a short description of the activity you want learners to engage in:

Students will examine budgetary decisions and documentation, and will recognize the political ideologies represented.

Essential questions:

- How does Party ideology impact budget priorities?
- What factors or criteria would you use to set budget priorities?

Curricular Competencies:

Social Studies 10: Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze ideas; and communicate findings and decisions.

Political Studies 11/12: Evaluate how factors, forces, events, or people influence developments, outcomes, or decisions.

Foundations of Math 11: Model Mathematics in contextualized experiences. Use mathematics to support personal choices.

Core Competencies:**Critical Thinking:**

- Students establish an understanding of government priorities in budgeting and examine their own personal values with regards to the government's budget.

Social Responsibility:

- By examining consequences attached to budgetary decisions, students are given a deeper understanding of the responsibilities of government.

Communication:

- Students will justify their priorities regarding the budget and in doing so, communicate their personal values through their budgetary decisions.

Overview of the learning opportunity:

1. Start with household budget model: [Planning Your Household Budget](#)
 - a. Go over household budget with parents the night before and complete the Ongoing Expenses and Occasional Expenses forms. Students should discuss parents' justification for expenses and be ready to share the following with the class (keeping in mind that the details of family expenditures are a private matter):
 - i. What are your family's top priorities?
 - ii. What surprised you about your family's budget?
 - iii. What did you discover?
2. Provincial Budget: As an introduction to provincial budgets, show students the [Video Clip](#).
3. Students will individually build a provincial budget pie chart based on their personal priorities.
4. Show BC Budget Expenditures Blank and have students use the word bank to predict what they believe the current government has as its priorities.
5. Show most recent budget and go over Government platform and see justification <http://bcbudget.gov.bc.ca>
6. In groups, students will look over Opposition Party platforms on each party's website and plan an appropriate budget. Groups will give an oral presentation using a pie chart and explain their assigned political party's priorities.
7. Students will vote for the party budget that best reflects the needs of British Columbians.

Suggestions for challenge-based or inquiry and cross-curricular integration

This lesson plan incorporates elements of SS 10, Political Studies 11/12 and Foundations of Math 11.

Learner self-reflection questions

- What did you learn about government financial processes?
- What were your considerations or difficulties in making your decisions?
- How accurately did your budget values align with the provincial parties?
- What surprises did you see in the provincial budget?
- What challenges did your mock caucus encounter?

Resources

Please refer to the attached document for graph templates.

87 Members from three political parties were elected to the Legislative Assembly in 2020. The platforms used by each of those parties during the 2020 election can be accessed below:

- [BC Green Party \(Website\)](#)
- [BC Liberal Party \(PDF\)](#)
- [BC NDP Party \(PDF\)](#)

Assessment

Students will submit a written paragraph justifying their own personal provincial budgetary chart and decisions.

Student groups will present a mock budget with justification for spending priorities.

NOTE: The ideas and opinions expressed in this classroom activity belong to their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. The Parliamentary Education Office only edits for clarity.

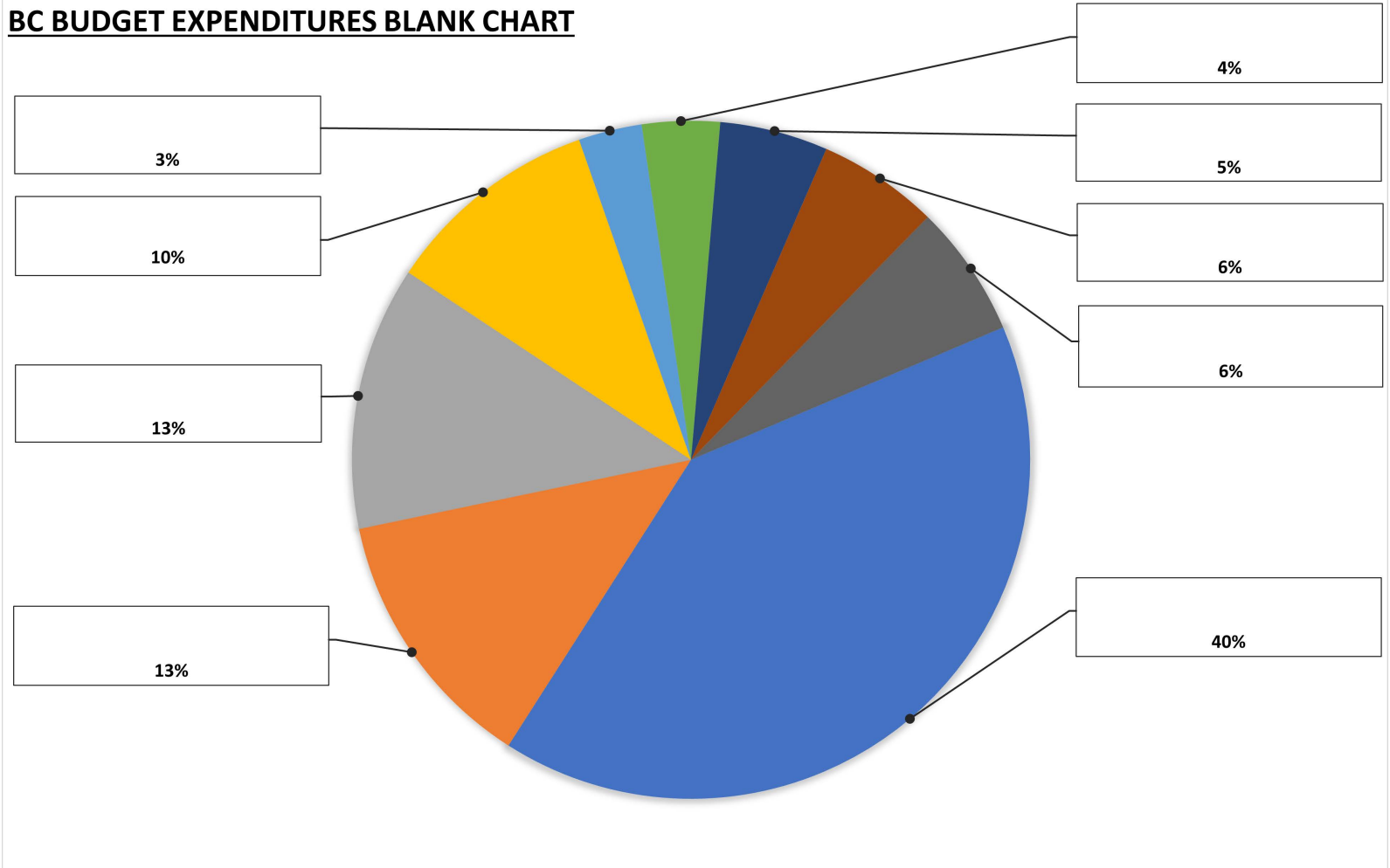
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Activity:

In groups, use the below word bank to allocate each item according to how you believe the current government has built their budget.

- General Government and Other
- Health
- Social Services
- Transportation
- Post-Secondary and Employment Training
- K-12 Education
- Protection of Persons and Property
- Natural Resources and Economic Development
- Debt Servicing and Contingencies

BC BUDGET EXPENDITURES BLANK CHART



BC BUDGET EXPENDITURES FOR THE 2020/2021 FISCAL YEAR

