

Minding your own business

Secondary Lesson Plan



This lesson plan was developed by Curriculum Corporation.

[Return to lesson plans](#)

[CurriculumPress Catalogue](#)

Source

[Making Choices: Secondary](#), Kit with student activity sheets

Learning area

Studies of society and environment

Level

Lower to middle secondary (Years 7–10)

Description

'Minding Your Own Business' is the ninth unit in *Making Choices: Secondary*. In the kit the units are accompanied by notes for the teacher and Student Activity Sheets. Students are asked to consider how to establish a small business and to research statistics on small business in Australia.

Purpose

To develop students' understanding of the role of small business as an employer and major producer of goods and services.

Duration

1 x one-hour session with follow-up work at home.

Possible outcomes

As a result of these activities students will be able to:

- describe factors which affect resource use and development (Level 4 Resources — SOSE Profile)
- show how information is used as a resource to make and record decisions (Level 4 Resources — SOSE Profile)
- identify decisions which have to be made by groups and individuals about production and consumption (Level 4 Resources — SOSE Profile)

There will also be links with other learning areas such as English.

Materials required

Nil

Procedure

Seeking and providing advice: Discuss the following points with the class: Giving advice is a service. People are selling their knowledge, expertise or experience, that is, their human capital. Sometimes advice is offered at no charge to the consumer but usually there are costs even if they are not passed on.

Brainstorm the kinds of 'advice' available in the community. Is any of this advice 'free'? Why?

Students could investigate the work of someone who gives advice to others. Does this person work in a large or small organisation? What advice do they give? Who seeks their advice? The telephone directory will be a helpful source of information for students.

Self-employment: As an investigative task, ask students to interview a self-employed person. Prepare students for the interview by discussing the structure, nature and purpose of questions and how responses will be noted/recorded.

Questions could include how the person got started. Where did the idea come from? What were the problems? What are the benefits? Would they like to work for someone else? Why/why not? Have students present their reports to the class.

Letter: Research advice services available for the small business operator. Students could prepare a draft letter to selected small business support services requesting information about advice and services which are offered.

Activities

1 The major activity is the establishment of a small business. Students are organised into groups to establish a 'business'. Initially they have to consider what to produce, how to produce and for whom to produce. Each group then: develops a business plan and a market survey; selects the location for the business; and considers the costs of resourcing the business and its capital requirements. Groups then compare business plans.

2 *Extra activity (Homework)* Research Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) statistics on small business and describe the role small business has played and is playing in the Australian economy. The *Australian Year Book* contains statistical information about small business and there are ABS publications that specifically refer to small business.

Acknowledgments

Making Choices: Secondary was developed jointly by the National Industry Education Forum (NIEF) and Curriculum Corporation.

Related products

- *Look Global: Upper Primary* (Curriculum Corporation, 1999)
- *Go Global: Lower Secondary* (Curriculum Corporation, 1996)
- *Approaches to Enterprise Education* (Curriculum Corporation, 1996)
- *I can make my robot dance* (Curriculum Corporation, 1996)
- [Carrots, Kites and Traffic Lights](#) (Curriculum Corporation, 1996)