

Career Connection

While money doesn't grow on trees, it can grow – in many different types of bank accounts.

Are you interested in having a part-time job in the future? What would you like to do with any money that you earn? Having a bank account can be very helpful for saving money, even at a young age, according to economics professor Ebonya Washington. Many banks offer both a variety of accounts to help you organize how you spend and save money. Some banks will pay you interest as a percentage of the amount in your account.



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Financial analysts study financial data and provide advice and recommendations for individuals and companies in making financial decisions. They might use percentages to calculate with interest rates and summarize overall financial goals and performance. Some financial analysts work in areas of public finance, which is the field of study concerning how governments make and use money to fund the needs of their societies.



Meet Ebonya Washington

Ebonya Washington is an economics professor and a professor of international and public affairs at Columbia University. She earned her PhD in Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was a Yale University professor prior to joining Columbia University in 2022. One of her areas of speciality is public finance.

Are you interested in finance or public finance? What can you do to learn more?

Community Connection

Research the sales tax in your city and state. Then research an item that is marked down by a given percentage from its original price.

Determine the final cost of the item, including sales tax. Show someone in your home or communities how you determined it.

Math Mindset

A number is increased by 10%.
The result is then decreased by 10%.
How does the final result compare to the original number?

Math in Action (Optional)

Purpose: Students reflect on the math they learned in this unit and how it applies to society, the workplace, and their world and communities.

● In this Unit

Students applied what they have learned about proportional relationships to solve problems involving percent change and fractional quantities.

⚙️ Career Connection | Meet Ebonya Washington

Invite students to read about how banks have different kinds of accounts that people can use to help manage their money. Some banks pay interest as a percentage of the money in the account. Then invite students to read about Economics professor Ebonya Washington.

Consider asking:

- “Why might it be important to research the types of accounts different banks might offer before opening an account with a particular bank?”
- “Are you interested in finance or public finance?” Refer students to the school or local library to find more information.

🏠 Community Connection

Invite students to research the sales tax in their city and state. Then invite them to research an item that is marked down by a given percentage from its original price. Alternatively, provide a set of items for students to choose from. Ask students to determine the final cost of the item, including sales tax, and to show someone in their home or communities how they determined that cost.

⚙️ Math Mindset

Support students in building mathematical habits of mind by inviting them to respond with a partner

Consider asking:

- “Choose a number. Increase it by 10%. What is the result? Then decrease this result by 10%. What is the final result?”
- “Why does the final result not have the same value as the original number?”

Unit 4 | Math in Action

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