



BUDGETING: VACATION PLANNING

INTRODUCTION: Budgeting is the process of planning for and estimating the cost of expenses. Budgets take into account the amount of money a person has to spend (e.g., income) versus the amount he or she needs or wants to spend. Put simply, a budget anticipates costs and plans the expenditure of available financial resources.

DIRECTIONS: Your task is to plan a three- to seven-day summer vacation (depending on where you want to go and how much you have to spend), taking into account the cost of transportation, accommodations, food, souvenirs, incidentals and other expenditures. Your budget will be \$2,000. Peruse USA TODAY and travel.usatoday.com for help choosing a destination. Then, use the space below to plan your itinerary and other travel arrangements. Finally, complete the budget planning sheet on the next page.

Itinerary planning	
Starting point	
Destination	
Method of travel (air, rental car, bus, bike, etc. Include all modes you will rely on during your trip.)	
Accommodations (hotel, campsite, etc.)	
Sightseeing	
Entertainment	
Clothing, supplies and other items to pack	

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DIRECTIONS: Use the graphic organizer below to estimate the amount you will spend each day during your vacation. Note that transportation costs will be higher on the first day if you choose to fly. Enter the cost of your accommodations and other expenses separately

each day. For help with travel plans, such as finding a flight or hotel, read USA TODAY, or visit travel.usatoday.com, and click on the links for “destinations,” “hotels,” “flights” and “deals.”

	Transportation (including airfare, rental cars, gaso- line, taxis, etc.)	Accommodations (hotel, camp site fees, etc.)	Food/Drink	Entertainment / Souvenirs	Clothing / Supplies	Incidentals (e.g., you forgot to bring suntan lotion and need to purchase some)
Day 1						
Day 2						
Day 3						
Day 4						
Day 5						
Day 6						
Day 7						
Total:	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

Notes: _____

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