

Dream Vacation

Project Description Page 1

Essential Questions:

1. What elements factor into the cost and planning of a dream vacation?
2. How do I stay within a budget while planning my dream vacation?

Background/Task:

Congratulations! You have been selected by Apple Vacations Travel Agency to participate in a dream vacation contest! Use your persuasive skills to convince the Apple agency that you have planned the most exciting dream vacation while maintaining a defined budget. If you are the most convincing, you will win the vacation!

Imagine you could drive anywhere in the Continental U.S. Where would you go? Use your imagination and plan your dream vacation. There are a few requirements; you can go anywhere you want outside the state of Connecticut. The minimum amount of nights you have to stay is 5 and the maximum is 14. You must bring at least one other person. But, please don't worry too much; Apple is giving you a budget of \$7000.00. However, there is a caveat; you must spend within \$500.00 dollars of your \$7,000 budget. In the coming days you will be provided with more detailed information to help you plan your trip!

Happy Travels,

Apple

Purpose:

This is a project based learning unit that was designed to have the students plan a dream vacation given a specific budget. They will compare costs of various forms of vehicles and lodging. They will compute sales tax, gas mileage and total vacation price. They will select leisure time activities and investigate related expenses. The project will culminate with the students utilizing their vacation portfolio to present and persuade the Apple agency (classmates) that they deserve to win the vacation.

Task Checklist	Due Date	Parent Signature
<p>Research and choose destination</p>		
<p>Calculate distance from your Middle School to your destination</p>		
<p>Indicate rental vehicle and its miles per gallon</p>		
<p>Calculate round trip cost of gasoline at \$4.05 a gallon.</p>		
<p>Find lodging, food and at least 3 tourist attractions/activities. Calculate cost for each. Remember to include sales tax and tip.</p>		
<p>Presentation portfolio</p>		

Project Synopsis:

- Students will research and explore the different costs associated with planning a vacation.
- Students will determine the cost associated with getting to their destination (gas, food and lodging).
- Students will determine the cost associated with leisure activities while at their destination (gas, food, lodging, activities and souvenirs).
- Students will determine cost associated with returning home from their destination (gas, food and lodging).
- Students will calculate a 20 % tip on all restaurant (full service) meals. Two out of three meals per day **MUST** be full service meals.
- Students will research and calculate appropriate sales tax for the state in which they are buying items.

Resource/Materials:

- Use of a computer lab
- Vacation task checklist
- Vacation daily planning guides
- Vacation budget guide
- Vacation project reflection sheet
- Vacation project rubric
- Vacation project oral rubric

Additional Internet Resources: Google YouTube and type in whatever city and state you want to view

- Video 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67JN2ohuPli> (Dream vacation)
- Video 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNTRHiRpv-w&feature=related> (Key West)
- Video 3: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7eAGiVxJHU&feature=related> (Portland, Maine)

Procedures:

- Hand out project description and read through it with the students. Answer any questions students may have.
- Have students view the YouTube videos as a launch into the project. Have a class discussion using the following questions:
 - What is your favorite place you have been on vacation?
 - If you can go anywhere on vacation, where would it be and why?
 - What are some things you must plan for?
 - If you had a limited amount of money, how would this affect your vacation?
- Students will begin to research trip destinations independently. They should be prepared to research outside of school time.
- Students will decide on a rental vehicle to drive to their destination. They must calculate miles per gallon at \$4.05 per gallon. This cost will be dependent upon the car's model and miles per gallon.
- Students will research the distance from their middle school to their destination using mapquest.com. Once miles are obtained, students must then figure out how much gasoline will cost knowing their miles per gallon for their vehicle. If students choose a destination that will take more than 10 hours (maximum amount of driving hours /day), this step is repeated until destination is reached.
- Students will research and record lodging, food and activities which are daily requirements, along with gas, and must be recorded on the daily planning guide. Students must remember to include appropriate sales tax along with 20% tip for full service meals.
- Students will add up the total cost of their trip and determine if they are staying within their budget. Students must be within \$500 of their \$7000.00 budget.
- Students will complete their written culminating paper by using daily planning guides. Teachers will use given rubric to score student papers.
- Students will then be presenting their vacation projects orally. Teachers will use given oral rubric to score presentations.

Planning Guide

Day 1:

Starting point: Stamford, CT.

Destination: _____

Miles traveled today: _____

Cost of gasoline today: _____

Cost of meals/lodging/activities today:

- **Breakfast:** _____
- **Lunch:** _____
- **Dinner:** _____
- **Lodging:** _____
- **Activities:** _____
- **Additional items:** _____

Daily journal entry:

Planning Guide

Day 2:

Starting point: _____

Destination: _____

Miles traveled today: _____

Cost of gasoline today: _____

Cost of meals/lodging/activities today:

- Breakfast: _____
- Lunch: _____
- Dinner: _____
- Lodging: _____
- Activities: _____
- Additional items: _____

Daily journal entry:

Planning Guide

Day 3:

Starting point: _____

Destination: _____

Miles traveled today: _____

Cost of gasoline today: _____

Cost of meals/lodging/activities today:

- Breakfast: _____
- Lunch: _____
- Dinner: _____
- Lodging: _____
- Activities: _____
- Additional items: _____

Daily journal entry:

Planning Guide

Day 4:

Starting point: _____

Destination: _____

Miles traveled today: _____

Cost of gasoline today: _____

Cost of meals/lodging/activities today:

- **Breakfast:** _____
- **Lunch:** _____
- **Dinner:** _____
- **Lodging:** _____
- **Activities:** _____
- **Additional items:** _____

Daily journal entry:

Planning Guide

Day 5:

Starting point: _____

Destination: _____

Miles traveled today: _____

Cost of gasoline today: _____

Cost of meals/lodging/activities today:

- **Breakfast:** _____
- **Lunch:** _____
- **Dinner:** _____
- **Lodging:** _____
- **Activities:** _____
- **Additional items:** _____

Daily journal entry:

Planning Guide

Day 6:

Starting point: _____

Destination: _____

Miles traveled today: _____

Cost of gasoline today: _____

Cost of meals/lodging/activities today:

- **Breakfast:** _____
- **Lunch:** _____
- **Dinner:** _____
- **Lodging:** _____
- **Activities:** _____
- **Additional items:** _____

Daily journal entry:

Planning Guide

Day 7:

Starting point: _____

Destination: _____

Miles traveled today: _____

Cost of gasoline today: _____

Cost of meals/lodging/activities today:

- Breakfast: _____
- Lunch: _____
- Dinner: _____
- Lodging: _____
- Activities: _____
- Additional items: _____

Daily journal entry:

Planning Guide

Day 8:

Starting point: _____

Destination: _____

Miles traveled today: _____

Cost of gasoline today: _____

Cost of meals/lodging/activities today:

- **Breakfast:** _____
- **Lunch:** _____
- **Dinner:** _____
- **Lodging:** _____
- **Activities:** _____
- **Additional items:** _____

Daily journal entry:

Planning Guide

Day 9:

Starting point: _____

Destination: _____

Miles traveled today: _____

Cost of gasoline today: _____

Cost of meals/lodging/activities today:

- **Breakfast:** _____
- **Lunch:** _____
- **Dinner:** _____
- **Lodging:** _____
- **Activities:** _____
- **Additional items:** _____

Daily journal entry:

Planning Guide

Day 10:

Starting point: _____

Destination: _____

Miles traveled today: _____

Cost of gasoline today: _____

Cost of meals/lodging/activities today:

- **Breakfast:** _____
- **Lunch:** _____
- **Dinner:** _____
- **Lodging:** _____
- **Activities:** _____
- **Additional items:** _____

Daily journal entry:

Planning Guide

Day 11:

Starting point: _____

Destination: _____

Miles traveled today: _____

Cost of gasoline today: _____

Cost of meals/lodging/activities today:

- **Breakfast:** _____
- **Lunch:** _____
- **Dinner:** _____
- **Lodging:** _____
- **Activities:** _____
- **Additional items:** _____

Daily journal entry:

Planning Guide

Day 12:

Starting point: _____

Destination: _____

Miles traveled today: _____

Cost of gasoline today: _____

Cost of meals/lodging/activities today:

- **Breakfast:** _____
- **Lunch:** _____
- **Dinner:** _____
- **Lodging:** _____
- **Activities:** _____
- **Additional items:** _____

Daily journal entry:

Planning Guide

Day 13:

Starting point: _____

Destination: _____

Miles traveled today: _____

Cost of gasoline today: _____

Cost of meals/lodging/activities today:

- **Breakfast:** _____
- **Lunch:** _____
- **Dinner:** _____
- **Lodging:** _____
- **Activities:** _____
- **Additional items:** _____

Daily journal entry:

Planning Guide

Day 14:

Starting point: _____

Destination: _____

Miles traveled today: _____

Cost of gasoline today: _____

Cost of meals/lodging/activities today:

- **Breakfast:** _____
- **Lunch:** _____
- **Dinner:** _____
- **Lodging:** _____
- **Activities:** _____
- **Additional items:** _____

Daily journal entry:

DAY		
Receipt		
Breakfast (Restaurant : _____)		
QTY	ITEMS	PRICES
Subtotal		\$
Tax		\$
Tip (If Applicable)		\$
Total Price		\$
Lunch (Restaurant : _____)		
QTY	ITEMS	PRICES
Subtotal		\$
Tax		\$
Tip (If Applicable)		\$
Total Price		\$
Dinner (Restaurant : _____)		
QTY	ITEMS	PRICES
Subtotal		\$
Tax		\$
Tip (If Applicable)		\$
Total Price		\$
Total for the Day (Breakfast + Lunch + Dinner)		\$

Vacation Planning Guide

COSTS	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7
Gasoline							
Meals							
Lodging							
Activities							
Additional							
TOTAL							

COSTS	DAY 8	DAY 9	DAY 10	DAY 11	DAY 12	DAY 13	DAY 14
Gasoline							
Meals							
Lodging							
Activities							
Additional							
TOTAL							

Dream Vacation Vocabulary

Budget

Cost

Sales Tax

Tip

Gallon

Miles

Miles per Gallon (mpg)

Destination

Lodging

Souvenirs

Full Service Restaurant

Take-Out Restaurant

Radius

Leisure Time

Tourist Attraction

Unit Rate

Round Trip

Rental

Evaluation

Directions: Please honestly complete the questions below using complete sentences. Your input will help me to improve this project in the future.

1. Overall, how do you think you did on your project?

2. What was the most difficult part in planning your vacation and why?

3. What was the easiest part in completing your vacation and why?

4. If you had the opportunity to do the project over again, what would you change?

5. Would you recommend this project to a friend? Why or why not?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Vacation Project Rubric

- Destination given (1%) _____
- Car given (1%) _____
- Miles/gallon given (2%) _____
- Amount of people traveling (1%) _____
- Cost of gasoline broken down per day (5%) _____
- Cost of lodging broken down per night (5%) _____
- Applicable sales tax (10%) _____
- 20% tips when applicable (10%) _____
- Cost of three meals/day for at least 5 days (10%) _____
- Three or more tourist attractions indicated and explained (5%) _____
- Staying within a \$100.00 of a \$7,000.00 budget (10%) _____
- Completed vacation budget guide (10%) _____
- Completed planning guide (15%) _____
- Completed portfolio (15%) _____

Total Points out of 100% _____