

# TEACHER'S GUIDE

Teach your students the importance of saving and the difference between want and need with the fun comic book from Visa and Marvel



Practical Money Skills  
for Life™



# GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

## OVERVIEW

In this lesson based around the Practical Money Skills comic book, Rocket's Powerful Plan, students will:

- Learn several basic money management concepts
- Master the importance of budgeting, saving and emergency funds
- Learning the difference between a want and a need

**Grade level:** 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>

**Time allotment:** 60 + minutes

### Learning objectives:

Students will

- Explain basic money management terms
- Summarize the reasons for planning ahead, saving often and spending wisely
- Learn how to save for future unplanned expenses
- Set a goal for saving money

**Course:** Math/Social Studies/Language Arts

**Core competencies:** Earn/Save/Spend

**Key vocabulary:** Bank, banking, budget, currency, payment, expenses, emergency fund, spend wisely, fee, savings account

### Materials:

- Rocket's Powerful Plan comic book is available digitally, as a pdf and in print (via online order) at [www.practicalmoneyskills.com/guardians](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/guardians)
- Super Hero Saving Smash and Fantastic Finance Terms worksheets are available for download at [www.practicalmoneyskills.com/guardians](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/guardians)



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## INSTRUCTION

Understanding the importance of maintaining a personal budget and building savings is a critical financial literacy skill for elementary and middle school students. This educational comic book introduces students to the concepts of banking, budgeting and saving in a fun and engaging way. They will learn important concepts and terminology via the story and by utilizing the glossary of financial terms and savings worksheet.

### **WARM UP (10 mins.)**

Open your discussion by asking students how many of them know what a budget is. Ask them what can happen when you don't have a budget and why they think saving is important. Then explain that saving is easier when you set short-term (one-month) savings goals (like buying a video game) and long-term (six-month) savings goals (like buying a bicycle). Explain that having a place to live is a "need" and that buying a new toy is a "want."

Complete the warm up by having students write down a short-term goal and a long-term goal of their own, and about how much they think each would cost.

### **TEACHING KEY CONCEPTS (10 mins.)**

#### **Why is it important to plan for the future, budget and save?**

- To have a plan for your spending
- To ensure you spend within your means
- To earmark money for savings
- To help you reach financial goals

#### **Why is having an emergency fund important?**

- Allows you to save money for the future (e.g., buying a book for school)
- Prepares you for unexpected expenses (e.g., bicycle repair costs)
- Helps you plan for a future goal (e.g., saving for a car)

### **REVIEWING FINANCIAL TERMS (10 mins.)**

Have students take turns reading the financial definitions in the inside back cover of the comic.



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## INSTRUCTION (continued)

### READING THE COMIC (25 mins.)

Have students open their printed comics or gather around classroom computers to view digital copies of the comic book. Students can take turns reading pages or portions of the comic.

### DISCUSSION (5 mins.)

After reading the comic, pose the following discussion questions to the class (possible responses are included below):

**Question 1:** What does Ant Man learn about managing his money in *Rocket's Powerful Plan*?

- *The importance of saving for the future and unexpected expenses.*
- *That saving is critical so you can meet financial goals and have money set aside for your monthly budget.*

**Question 2:** Ant Man's goal is to buy a new drum set for his daughter Cassie. What is a savings goal you have? Volunteer to share a savings goal you have with the class and discuss how much it might cost and how long it might take you to save for this goal.

- *New video game system (\$300 over 6 months), new bike (\$250 over 4 months), etc*

End the discussion by encouraging students to talk with their families about their own values around budgeting, saving and building an emergency fund for unplanned expenses.



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## EXTRA CREDIT

### **SUPER HERO SAVING SMASH EXERCISE (20 mins.)**

Have students turn to the Super Hero Saving Smash worksheet on the back cover of the comic, or print copies of the pdf for each student. Let them know they will be creating budgets of their own.

Next, read aloud the instructions at the top of the worksheet and review each of the three mini-games. Explain that the goal of this exercise is to learn the difference between something they “want” and other things they “need” in their daily lives.

Then have students complete the worksheet individually. Finally, review their worksheets to ensure they’ve been completed correctly. Congratulate them on their new money skills and becoming a Super Hero saver.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Access these additional Practical Money Skills resources for teaching financial literacy in your classroom:

**Lesson plans:** [www.practicalmoneyskills.com/lessonplans](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/lessonplans)

**Games:** [www.practicalmoneyskills.com/games](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/games)