

## LEARNING EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW

# JA Take Stock in Your Future<sup>®</sup>

### ■ Financial Literacy

*JA Take Stock in Your Future* introduces teens and young adults to the stock market. This learning experience includes two components: a classroom curriculum, and for many participants, the JA Stock Market Challenge competition event.

The classroom curriculum comprises five sessions that introduce participants to basic concepts about how the stock market works and the impact of current events on the stock market. The learning experience also includes multiple self-guided extension activities that engage participants in deeper learning about the stock market and investing. Through *JA Take Stock in Your Future*, participants discover the benefits and challenges of investing in the stock market as part of a broader, long-term investment strategy and the risks and rewards of trading.

This learning experience is part of the JA Financial Literacy Pathway with a secondary focus on Work and Career Readiness competencies and is designed for Grades 9–12 and post-high school. The learning experience may receive 3 or more Instructional Contact Hours based on delivery. The learning experience is primarily educator-led content, with multiple options for volunteer engagement.



## LEARNING EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Blended model, educator- and volunteer-led
- Curriculum delivery in person (face-to-face in the classroom) or virtually (online in a remote classroom)
- Five sessions, plus optional extension sessions
- Optional online or site-based JA Stock Market Challenge competition



# JA Take Stock in Your Future

## CURRICULUM SESSIONS

Participants complete five educator- or volunteer-led, 45-minute sessions.

### CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session	Overview	Objectives	Activities
<b>Session One: Understanding Stocks</b>	Participants are introduced to the foundational concepts of stocks and the stock market through the analysis of an authentic, real-time stock market report. Then, they practice selecting stocks from a fictitious market to develop a portfolio.	<p><b>Participants will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinguish between private companies and public companies.</li> <li>• Explain how and why individuals invest in corporations when they purchase stocks.</li> <li>• Identify why companies issue stock.</li> <li>• Explain how stocks can increase and decrease in value.</li> <li>• Identify the steps in the process for buying and selling stocks on the stock market.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Warm-Up: Types of Companies</b> (10 minutes) Participants review the different company ownership models for public and private companies.</p> <p><b>Explore: Today's Market</b> (15 minutes) Participants discuss the current events impacting the market, explore the basic concepts of stocks and the stock market, and learn how to read a stock market ticker.</p> <p><b>Discuss: Stock Portfolios</b> (15 minutes) Participants select a stock portfolio from a fictitious exchange.</p> <p><b>Wrap-Up: Debrief</b> (5 minutes) Participants debrief on the big ideas and key terms from the session and reflect on their current attitude toward the stock market.</p>

(continued)

# JA Take Stock in Your Future

## CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session	Overview	Objectives	Activities
<p><b>Session Two: Stock Trading</b></p>	<p>Participants explore how stocks are traded, how stock prices are affected by current events, and how investors make investment decisions and diversify their portfolios. They are introduced to stock indexes/averages and stock tables, and they practice buying, selling, or holding stocks from their fictitious stock portfolio.</p>	<p><b>Participants will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine ways to assess the risks in investing.</li> <li>• Discuss the impact that economic events have on stock prices and supply and demand.</li> <li>• Analyze the data in a stock table.</li> <li>• Practice following the process for buying and selling stocks on the stock market.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Warm-Up: Would You Invest?</b> (5 minutes) Participants decide whether they would invest in a given company and the potential investor questions they might ask.</p> <p><b>Explore: Today's Stock Market</b> (10 minutes) Participants discuss the current events impacting the market, explore stock indexes/averages, and learn the basics of mutual funds. They also learn the four types of stock orders.</p> <p><b>Explore: Stock Tables</b> (10 minutes) Participants learn how to read and understand the information in stock tables.</p> <p><b>Get Together: Stock Portfolios</b> (15 minutes) Participants calculate the value changes to their fictitious stock portfolios and decide whether to buy, sell, or hold their stocks.</p> <p><b>Wrap-Up: Debrief</b> (5 minutes) Participants debrief on the big ideas from the session and reflect on their current attitude toward stock trading.</p>

(continued)

# JA Take Stock in Your Future

## CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session	Overview	Objectives	Activities
<b>Session Three: Exploring Dividends</b>	Participants analyze today's stock market and explore the concept of dividends. They analyze their fictitious stock portfolio and calculate their dividend payments.	<p><b>Participants will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze how current events are impacting stock prices.</li> <li>Demonstrate an understanding of how cash dividends are earned and calculated.</li> <li>Evaluate the success of an investment portfolio in relation to market events.</li> <li>Refine their process for buying and selling stocks.</li> <li>Calculate cash and stock dividend earnings.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Warm-Up: Today's Market</b> (5 minutes) Participants discuss the current events affecting the stock market.</p> <p><b>Explore: Dividends</b> (10 minutes) Participants learn that some companies issue dividend payments to stockholders. They also practice reading dividend data from a stock table.</p> <p><b>Discuss: Stock Portfolios</b> (15 minutes) Participants calculate the value changes to their fictitious stock portfolio and analyze the success of the portfolio in relation to market events.</p> <p><b>Get Together: Calculating Dividends</b> (10 minutes) Participants calculate their dividend payments and the new value of their fictitious stock portfolios.</p> <p><b>Wrap-Up: Debrief</b> (5 minutes) Participants debrief and reflect on the big ideas from the session.</p>
<b>Session Four: Best-in-Class Competition</b>	<p>Participants put their new stock market knowledge and skills into practice as they compete to win an in-class competition.</p> <p>This session is designed to be flexible based on participants' level and experience, plus the online stock market simulation tool selected by local JA Areas.</p>	<p><b>Participants will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement knowledge of how to buy and sell stocks.</li> <li>Apply knowledge of how current events can impact stock prices.</li> <li>Evaluate the possible trade-off for each stock decision, prior to committing to the decision.</li> <li>Communicate and collaborate effectively within a team to successfully implement game strategies.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Warm-Up: Today's Stock Market</b> (5 minutes) Participants learn the rules and expectations for the in-class competition.</p> <p><b>Get Together: In-Class Competition</b> (35 minutes) Participants compete in teams in a stock market simulation of your choice.</p> <p><b>Wrap-Up: Debrief</b> (5 minutes) Participants debrief and reflect on what they learned through the in-class competition.</p>

(continued)

# JA Take Stock in Your Future

## CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session	Overview	Objectives	Activities
<b>Session Five: Planning for the Future</b>	Participants reflect on their experience participating in the in-class competition and/or the JA Stock Market Challenge event and connect the simulations to the real world. They conclude the program by developing their own financial goals.	<b>Participants will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Compare and contrast real versus simulated stock markets.</li><li>• Identify various asset classes and assess the risks of each.</li><li>• Develop a personal financial plan.</li><li>• Reflect on what they learned throughout the program.</li></ul>	<b>Warm-Up: Simulation Experiences</b> (10 minutes) Participants reflect on their experience from competing in the simulation. <b>Explore: Risk Management</b> (10 minutes) Participants learn about asset classes and the connection between risk and time when selecting types of investments. <b>Discuss: Planning for the Future</b> (20 minutes) Participants create a personal financial plan that includes investing. <b>Wrap-Up: Program Reflection</b> (5 minutes) Participants reflect on what they learned during the program.

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

The following **optional** extension activities are available for deeper exploration of the topics and ideas in each session. Educators and volunteers may pick and choose from the extensions to address additional objectives or to extend the 45-minute sessions. Extension activities are designed for participants to complete independently. Educators and volunteers may choose to lead the introduction and wrap-up with participants in person (face-to-face in the classroom) or virtually (online in a remote classroom), or they can assign participants to complete the work as an entirely self-guided activity.

The extensions may be implemented at any time, but suggestions for the corresponding sessions have been provided.

# JA Take Stock in Your Future

## Self-Guided Extension Activities Outline

Extension	Overview	Objectives
<b>Private vs. Public Companies</b> (Suggested for Session One)	In this <b>15-minute</b> extension activity, participants learn the basics of company ownership models using a pizza business scenario. They explore the advantages and disadvantages for a company of remaining private or becoming publicly owned.	<b>Participants will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate an understanding of the differences between private and public companies as they relate to company ownership.</li> <li>• Explain why a company would remain private or go public.</li> </ul>
<b>Smart Investing</b> (Suggested for Session One)	In this <b>20-minute</b> extension activity, participants learn the basics of stock market investing, read and respond to scenarios about investing, and are introduced to three investing strategies.	<b>Participants will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize basic principles of investing in stocks.</li> <li>• List strategies for smart investing.</li> </ul>
<b>Diversification and Risk</b> (Suggested for Sessions One and Two)	In this <b>15-minute</b> extension activity, participants learn that, even though individual investors may have different risk tolerances, smart investors always seek to minimize their risk by diversifying their portfolios.	<b>Participants will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify different levels of risk tolerance.</li> <li>• Express how and why investors use diversification to minimize risk.</li> </ul>
<b>Setting Stock Prices and Trading Stock</b> (Suggested for Sessions One and Two)	In this <b>15-minute</b> extension activity, participants learn why public companies sell stock, what happens during a company's initial public offering, and how stocks are traded on a stock exchange.	<b>Participants will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify how a stock's price is set during a company's initial public offering.</li> <li>• Identify the steps in the process for buying and selling stocks on a stock exchange.</li> </ul>
<b>Factors that Influence Stock Prices</b> (Suggested for Sessions One and Two)	In this <b>15-minute</b> extension activity, participants learn the basics of supply and demand in the stock market, explore factors that impact stock price, and read and respond to scenarios related to determining stock price.	<b>Participants will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how supply and demand govern the price of stock when it is traded on a stock market.</li> <li>• Describe the factors that can influence stock price.</li> </ul>
<b>The Animals of the Stock Market</b> (Suggested for Sessions One and Two)	This <b>15-minute</b> extension activity focuses on the peculiar, animal-centric language of the stock market. Participants will learn about bull and bear markets, black swan events, dead cat bounces, and other turns of phrase that can describe individuals and situations related to investing and the stock market.	<b>Participants will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Express terms that describe people, events, and situations linked to investing.</li> </ul>

(continued)

# JA Take Stock in Your Future

## Self-Guided Extension Activities Outline

Extension	Overview	Objectives
<b>My Stock Portfolio</b> (Suggested for Sessions Two, Three, and Four)	This extension activity enables participants to select real stocks on the stock market using an initial imaginary investment of \$10,000. Participants create a stock portfolio and then track and adjust their investments over time. This activity has no time limit, and participants may track and adjust their portfolios for as long as they'd like.	<b>Participants will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply research-based investment decisions.</li> <li>• Practice following the process for buying and selling stocks.</li> </ul>
<b>Data Gathering</b> (Suggested for Session Two)	This <b>20-minute</b> extension activity focuses on the importance of making informed investment decisions. It explains several ways to accumulate information about a prospective company's stock and describes the importance of evaluating each source of information fully and objectively.	<b>Participants will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify what resources investors use to make informed investment decisions.</li> <li>• Express why investors research companies before making investment decisions.</li> </ul>
<b>Comparing Investment Channels</b> (Suggested for Session Two)	In this <b>15-minute</b> extension activity, participants learn about several ways in which investors buy and sell stocks, uncovering the upsides and downsides of each method.	<b>Participants will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare the advantages and disadvantages of buying and selling investments through various channels.</li> </ul>
<b>Analyzing Initial Public Offerings (IPOs)</b> (Suggested for Sessions Two and Three)	This <b>15-minute</b> extension activity focuses on initial public offerings (IPOs) and how the company's initial stock price is determined.	<b>Participants will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the factors to consider when deciding whether to invest in an IPO.</li> </ul>
<b>Financial Watchdogs</b> (Suggested for Session Three)	This <b>20-minute</b> extension activity focuses on the agencies and organizations tasked with protecting investors and regulating financial markets and products.	<b>Participants will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the protections provided to investors by market regulatory agencies that oversee financial markets, products, and professionals.</li> </ul>
<b>Taxes and the Stock Market</b> (Suggested for Sessions Three or Four)	In this <b>15-minute</b> extension activity, participants learn about short- and long-term capital gains and the ways in which they are taxed differently, depending on income.	<b>Participants will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine how short- and long-term capital gains are taxed.</li> </ul>

(continued)

# JA Take Stock in Your Future

## Self-Guided Extension Activities Outline

Extension	Overview	Objectives
<b>Preparing for the JA Stock Market Challenge</b> (Suggested for Session Four)	This <b>30-minute</b> extension activity prepares participants for the JA Stock Market Challenge. Participants review the big ideas about stocks and the stock market that they must understand to participate in the JA Stock Market Challenge. They also learn about the different roles on the team and the rules of the competition.	<b>Participants will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the big ideas about investing—specifically, stocks and stock trading.</li><li>• Prepare for the JA Stock Market Challenge.</li></ul>
<b>Evaluating Your Financial Plan</b> (Suggested for Session Five)	This <b>15-minute</b> extension activity focuses on reviewing and assessing a financial plan and selecting investments that meet stated goals.	<b>Participants will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review and evaluate their financial plans.</li><li>• Select possible investments that meet the goals of the financial plan.</li></ul>
<b>Investing for the Long Term</b> (Suggested for Session Five)	In this <b>15-minute</b> extension activity, participants learn why investing over the long-term offers the best path toward success in the market and why day trading can be fraught with risk.	<b>Participants will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify the value of and benefits associated with long-term investments.</li><li>• Express the risks associated with day trading and short-term investments.</li></ul>