

# JA Our Nation®

## 5th Grade



*JA Our Nation* introduces fifth-grade students to the intersection of **work readiness** and upper elementary grades social studies learning objectives. Through hands-on classroom activities, the program provides students with practical information about the nation's free market system and how it serves as an economic engine for businesses and careers. The curriculum also introduces the need for entrepreneurial and innovative thinking to meet the requirements of high-growth, high-demand careers and the concept of globalization in business. *JA Our Nation* is volunteer-taught and kit-based. Included in the kit are five 45-minute sessions, a supplemental session focusing on business organization, and enhanced extension activities.

### **Session One: Free to Choose Your Work or Business**

Students are introduced to the nation's free market system and how it supports businesses and careers. They experience how pricing affects consumers' buying decisions.

### **Session Two: Innovation Nation**

Students experience how entrepreneurial thinking can spur new businesses and the opportunity for future income. They use an engineering design process to reimagine a product or service.

### **Session Three: Career Clusters**

Students learn about career clusters. They participate in a Career Quest and answer specific questions using information found on the Career Cluster Trading Cards.

### **Session Four: Get and Keep the Job!**

Students examine important work-readiness and behavioral skills needed for career success. Through playing a board game, students learn about the soft skills employers are looking for.

### **Session Five: Global Connections**

Students explore how the United States is connected to the global economy. In groups, students use puzzle cards to assemble products using resources from around the world.

### **Optional Supplement: Business Organization**

Students examine entrepreneurship, free enterprise, and business organization by role-playing starting and growing a business.

### **Key Learning Objectives**

The students will be able to:

- Identify the characteristics of a free market economy.
- Explain how pricing guides economic decisions.

### **Key Learning Objectives**

The students will be able to:

- Define entrepreneur and entrepreneurship.
- Describe resources and how entrepreneurs use them.
- Explore STEM skills and the process of innovation.

### **Key Learning Objectives**

The students will be able to:

- Examine career groupings and the skills necessary for a variety of careers.

### **Key Learning Objectives**

The students will be able to:

- Identify the soft skills wanted by today's employers.

### **Key Learning Objectives**

The students will be able to:

- Discuss why businesses specialize and trade.
- Define opportunity cost.

### **Key Learning Objectives**

The students will be able to:

- Identify three basic ways businesses are organized.



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### Teaching Tips for Junior Achievement Volunteers

#### **Session One Tips:**

Give examples about free enterprise that the students can relate to, sharing two or three examples. If possible, print examples to use as visual aids.

#### **Session Two Tips:**

Provide examples of jobs, industries, and companies that will use STEM skills and show which stem skills they will use. Demonstrate how to access the website from the students' wristbands and how they can explore STEM careers and skills.

#### **Session Three Tips:**

Bring a sample resume to share with the class. You can also have the students create a resume based on the job skills needed for a favorite career in the career clusters card. They can also share with the class why they would be perfect for this job.

#### **Session Four Tips:**

Separate the game components before the class session. Review the game instructions with the students before handing out the game boards and pieces. Allow for questions and check for understanding before beginning. You may leave the cards with the teacher to allow the class to use them again.

#### **Session Five Tips:**

Share an example of a business the students are familiar with and show how it has a worldwide presence (e.g. McDonald's). Templates are available at [www.jabrand.org/volunteers/customizable-program-certs/](http://www.jabrand.org/volunteers/customizable-program-certs/) to help you prepare Certificates of Achievement before session 5 or you can handwrite the students' names on certificates.

#### **Supplemental Session Tips:**

If the teacher allows, consider bringing popcorn and ice cream as a treat for the students.

#### **General Suggestions:**

Students will display a variety of attitudes, and can be quite candid. It's best to use a calm, non-judgmental response when students need to be redirected. Care about the students as individuals. Learn their names, remember what they say, look them in the eye, and express that you believe each student is capable of success.

#### **JA Day Tips:**

JA sessions should comprise the entire school day. To assist you in planning your JA Day, prepare the extended learning opportunities to ensure you have activities for the entire day and utilize them if you finish your sessions early. It is important to monitor your time to ensure all 5 sessions are completed in the day. Discuss the activities with the teacher before you begin teaching so that the teacher can aid in time management. Wait until the end of the day to pass out any take home items (newsletters, postcards with magnets, etc.).

*JA programs are correlated to Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics and Arizona K-12 Academic Standards in Social Studies. Additional national correlations can be found at [www.ja.org](http://www.ja.org).*