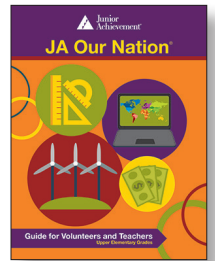




# Program Overview

JA Our Nation®



*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 are five 45-minute sessions, a supplemental session focusing on business organization, and enhanced extension activities.

Session	Overview	Objective/Goals	Activities/Components
<b>SESSION ONE</b> Free to Choose Your Work or Business	Students are introduced to the nation's free market system and how it supports businesses and careers.	<b>Students will be able to...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the characteristics of a free market economy.</li> <li>Explain how pricing guides economic decisions.</li> </ul>	Students price items from their desks. They experience how pricing affects consumers' buying decisions.
<b>SESSION TWO</b> Innovation Nation	Students experience how entrepreneurial thinking can spur new businesses and the opportunity for future income.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define entrepreneur and entrepreneurship.</li> <li>Describe resources and how entrepreneurs use them.</li> <li>Explore STEM skills and the process of innovation.</li> </ul>	Students use an engineering design process (define the problem, brainstorm, formulate an idea, and sketch a design) to reimagine and improve a product or service.
<b>SESSION THREE</b> Career Quest	Students learn about career clusters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examine career groupings and the skills necessary for a variety of careers.</li> </ul>	Students participate in a Career Quest and answer specific questions using information found on the Career Cluster Trading Cards.
<b>SESSION FOUR</b> Get and Keep the Job!	Students examine important work-readiness and behavioral skills needed for career success.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the soft skills wanted by today's employers.</li> </ul>	Students play the Get and Keep the Job! board game to learn about the soft skills employers are looking for.
<b>SESSION FIVE</b> Global Connections	Students explore how the United States is connected to the global economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss why businesses specialize and trade.</li> <li>Define opportunity cost.</li> </ul>	Using puzzle cards, student groups assemble products using resources from countries around the world.
<b>OPTIONAL SUPPLEMENT</b> Business Organization	Students examine entrepreneurship, free enterprise, and business organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify three basic ways businesses are organized.</li> </ul>	Students role-play starting a business and growing it from a sole proprietorship into a corporation.

### Concepts:

Businesses, careers, career clusters, collaboration, communication, competition, competitor, consumer, critical thinking, engineering, employees, employers, entrepreneur, free market economy, global economy, goods and services, human capital, innovation, invention, interdependence, job specialization, opportunity cost, product, producer, profit, resume, skills, technology, work readiness

### Skills:

Analyzing occupations, analyzing information, brainstorming, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, decision making, estimating, following written instructions, interpersonal skills, interpreting economic issues, map reading, organizing information, prioritizing, problem solving, reasoning, speaking and listening, STEM skills, teamwork, working cooperatively, working in pairs, written communication