

JA America Works®

Through hands-on classroom activities, *JA America Works* provides students with examples of how business and entrepreneurship affected the economic development of the United States during the 19th century.

Following participation in the program, students will be able to:

- Describe the significance of business and entrepreneurship in the economic development of the United States.
- Explain how new and improved technologies advanced the production of goods and services.
- Apply their knowledge of business and economic concepts in analyzing contemporary events, as well as business opportunities and challenges.

Session Titles and Summaries

Session One: Who Am I?

Students learn about the contributions made by immigrants in the economic growth of the United States. They explore how “push and pull factors” affected immigration in the 1800s and still do today.

Session Two: Roughing It

Students recognize the significant role agriculture played in U.S. economic development. Working in groups, students role-play scenarios related to the Homestead Act to understand how homesteaders helped make public lands productive.

Session Three: Strike-It-Rich

Students learn about the importance of natural resources to businesses through the example of the California Gold Rush. They explore the development of boomtowns and their frequent transformation into ghost towns.

Session Four: In Pursuit of Progress

Students identify various modes of transportation used during the 19th century and compare them to modern forms. They learn about productive resources: natural, human, and capital, and test their knowledge in a board game in which a train and a barge compete in a race to Eureka.

Session Five: Communication Transformation

Students explain how methods of communication developed in the 1800s expanded business opportunities across America. They learn how the telegraph, in particular, increased productivity in a variety of businesses. They use Morse Code to decode messages.

Session Six: Now What?

Students learn how entrepreneurs bring innovative and affordable products to market. Working in groups, they develop an innovation in one of three categories— photography, writing machines, and recorded music.

JA Worldwide® gratefully acknowledges the Pitney Bowes Literacy and Education Fund for its dedication to the development and implementation of the middle grades program *JA America Works*.

Junior Achievement® – Bringing the “Business of Life” to Life

Join Junior Achievement’s global network of more than 287,000 volunteers and help students in your community connect the dots between what they learn in school and the “business of life”—work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy.

JA’s Turn-Key Volunteer Solution:

1. Personalized Placement
JA works with you to ensure you teach at the location and grade level of your choice.

2. Comprehensive Training
JA staff provides training so you are comfortable visiting the classroom. You will be trained in classroom management, understanding and relaying the JA curriculum, working with the classroom teacher, and communicating effectively with students.

JA America Works®

What is behind the U.S. legacy of economic success? Entrepreneurial moxie—and lots of it! In this program, students learn about the history of American entrepreneurship and its vital role in business and the nation’s economic development.



3. Minimal Time Commitment
The time commitment is minimal compared to the significant impact you make. Middle grade-level classes include six, 45-minute sessions.

And, JA provides you with a kit containing all of the session plans and student materials you'll need to make every minute count.

4. JA Staff Follow-Up and Support
JA staff is available to answer your questions or make suggestions pertaining to your volunteer assignment.

Guide for Volunteers and Teachers

Provides session plans and teaching tips.



Student Workbook

An in-class and take-home reference tool for students to follow along and complete with each session.



Certificate of Achievement

Given to students in recognition of their participation.



Take-Home Newsletter

Provides activities for the student's family to enjoy.



Timeline Banner

Tracks important event, and when they happened.



U.S. Wall Map

Helps students visualize the United States' great expanse.



JA America Works CD-ROM

Contains fun activities designed to reinforce concepts learned during the sessions.



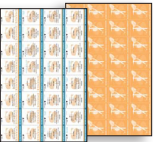
Homesstead Act Scenario Cards

Working as “families,” students consider the costs and benefits of each card.



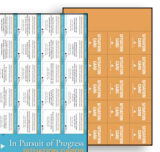
Strike-It-Rich Cards

Students have a race to see who can obtain the most money in 10 minutes.



In Pursuit of Progress Cards

Students learn about different types of resources.



Communication Signs

Students explore how communication has changed over the centuries.



Now What? Innovation Cards

Students learn how inventions are developed.



Junior Achievement®

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