

The Real Game: Quick sims



Recommended:
6th-12th grade



Length:
90 minutes

About this lesson

To understand the financial impact of their career, education, and life decisions, students are introduced to the **The Real Game**. The simulation aims to familiarize students with significant life ideas including student loans and the return on investment in education, potential earnings, managing expenses, and the cost of living. This will be achieved through their selection of a preferred profession, choosing an educational path, the possibility of adding a family profile, and creating a budget.

Learning objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- complete an assessment to help them consider the financial impact of their career, education, and life decisions.
- understand the importance of thinking critically about their career, education, and life decisions.
- create their first life simulation, including selection of a role profile, education/training pathway, option to add family members/pets, and budgeting activity to understand the financial impact of their choices.
- consider how the decisions they made in **The Real Game** impacted their budget.
- reflect on what they learned from their first life simulation.

Driving question

How will my career, education, and life decisions impact my financial future?

Future-ready skills

Financial literacy

Research

Planning

Decision-making

Critical thinking

Reflection

Lesson breakdown

30

minutes

Activity 1 - Financial impact assessment

In this activity, students will complete an assessment to help them consider the financial impact of their career, education, and life decisions.

45

minutes

Activity 2 - Save a Quick sim

Direct students to **The Real Game**, where they will complete 1 quick sim, including choosing the role they want to play based on a saved career, selecting an education pathway, having the option of adding a family profile, and creating a budget.

15

minutes

Activity 3 - Financial decision outcomes

Using a physical or virtual board, ask each student to contribute three sticky notes in response to these questions: 1. How did your expenses compare to your income in the simulation? Were they more, less, or the same? 2. What were two decisions you made in the simulation that impacted your budget? 3. What is something you learned from completing your first life simulation?



Xello entry point

It's recommended that students choose a role based on a current career of interest for their first simulation. As such, students will need to make sure they have saved three careers before starting this lesson.

Vocabulary

- Loan
- Budget
- Earnings
- Expenses
- Gross & net income
- Credential
- Cost of living
- Return on investment (ROI)
- Debt
- Deductions

xello

Activity 1: Financial impact assessment



Recommended:
6th-12th grade



Length:
30 minutes

Inquiry prompts

- Why is it important to think critically about the financial impact of my career, education, and life decisions?

Before you begin

1. Create a copy or download [The Real Game slide presentation](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)) to use as a helpful teaching aid while students complete the Financial impact assessment and later, save their Quick sims.
2. Review the slides (including the speaker notes section) for discussion strategies and prompts.

Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will use their critical thinking skills to complete a financial impact assessment and consider the outcomes of their career, education, and life decisions.

- 1 Before students start, engage them in a classroom discussion using the inquiry prompts from the **Warm up activity** slide of [The Real Game slide presentation](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)).
- 2 Introduce the [Financial impact assessment](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)) to help them draw connections between how the choices they make about their career, education, and life will impact their finances.
- 3 After students have completed the assessment, arrange students into small groups. Ask students to take turns sharing one true, one unsure, and one false assessment answer with their group along with a short explanation of why they chose their answers.

Materials required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- [The Real Game slide presentation](#) (also available in [Spanish](#))
- [Financial impact assessment handout](#) (also available in [Spanish](#))

Artifacts

Students take an assessment in order to apply critical thinking in evaluating the potential financial consequences of their career, education, and life choices.

Activity 2: Save a Quick sim



Recommended:
6th-12th grade



Length:
45 minutes

Before you begin

1. Ensure that you're able to log into your student demo account in Xello. You may wish to create your own simulation to get acquainted with **The Real Game**.
2. Make sure students are able to log into their accounts and access **The Real Game**.
3. [Run a report](#) to review **Careers saved by student** to confirm students have saved at least 3 careers in Xello.

Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will complete their first **Quick sim**, including selection of a career, education/training pathway, option to add family members/pets, and budgeting activity to understand the financial impact of their choices.

- 1 Have students proceed to The **Real Game** to complete their first simulation. Direct students to follow the prompts, starting with adding a career (the role they want to play in the simulation). This should be based on one of their saved careers in Xello.
- 2 Provide the [instructions](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)) on the next page to your students.
- 3 Once your students have had the chance to engage with **The Real Game** [Run a report](#) or view information on their saved simulations from your educator account. Click **Reports** and select **Student work**. From the top of the page, ensure the correct grade is selected. Choose the **Simulations by student** report and use the **Filters** to narrow the list of students and view **Students with no sessions**. Use the **Send message** button to remind them to complete their first simulation.

Materials required

- Computers or tablets with internet access

Save a Quick sim

Student instructions

In this activity, you will create your first **Quick sim** using **The Real Game**.

- 1 In Xello, open **Home** and click **The Real Game**.
- 2 To populate relevant expense information, change the location from the bottom of the page by clicking **Data is shown for:**.

Note: To return to your Xello dashboard, from **The Real Game** dashboard, click **Return to Xello**. To create a new, fresh play or access previously saved games, click **Quick sims** in the left menu.

Add career

In this step you'll add a career (the role you want to play in the simulation).

- 1 Choose one of your saved careers in Xello, and click **Done**.
- 2 Review the details of your new role in the **You're hired!** modal and click **Get started**.
- 3 Click your career name to check out your **Pay statement**. Review your **Deductions** and compare your **Total gross earnings** to your **Net pay**.

Add education

In this step you'll choose a pathway for after high school.

- 1 Click **Add education**. If required, add any education or training for your selected career by choosing a pathway. To learn more, click **Learn more about pathways**.
- 2 Choose the credential you'll have earned. In some cases, you may have a choice between the minimum education required, the most common, or other options. Learn more by clicking **Learn more about credentials**.

Note: You can add custom credentials for military, straight-to-work, or apprenticeship pathways. These pathways result in no student debt.

- 3 **Conditional step:** Search for a school or take a chance by selecting a random school by clicking **Surprise me**.

Note: If you already saved schools in Xello those options may be available to select.

- 4 **Conditional step:** Review or adjust the amount you pay towards your student loan debt each month. Notice how the **Loan conditions** change after you update the monthly re-payment amount. Click **Done** when you're satisfied with the **Loan breakdown**.

Note: It is recommended to spend 8-10% of your take-home pay on student loan debt each month.

- 5 Compare options for your role. Add more pathways or schools to compare the costs. When you've completed your comparison, select one.

Save a Quick sim

Edit family

In this step you'll choose your family details.

- 1 If you'd like to see how where you live impacts your earnings and expenses, from the bottom of the page, change the location by clicking **Data is shown for:**.
- 2 Add a partner, spouse, children, or pets to your simulated family, if you wish.

Note: adding family members may impact both your income and expenses. For instance, adding a spouse will increase your income by the amount of an average salary across all careers but will also add an extra monthly sum for expenses.

- 3 Review **Livable wage** information. This is the minimum amount you need to make each month to cover your basic expenses. It lets you maintain a normal standard of living for you and your family in your area.
- 4 Note whether you are **Earning enough** or **Not earning enough**.

Add expenses

In this step you'll choose your monthly expenses.

- 1 **Add expenses** to your budget by clicking **Add monthly expenses**. Your monthly expenses will include housing, transportation, cooking, dining out, utilities, communication, personal care, entertainment, household, health care, insurance, clothes, and savings. You can also add custom expenses.

Note: It is recommended to save 20% of your income.

- 2 Review the **Monthly budget** section. Notice how your expenses compare to your income. Are they more, less, or the same?

Monthly budget

What was the result of your financial decision outcomes?

Reflect on these 3 questions:

- 1 After reviewing your **Monthly budget**, how did your expenses compare to your income in the simulation? Were they more, less, or the same?
- 2 Review your **Expenses**. What were two decisions you made in the simulation that impacted your budget?
- 3 What is something you learned from completing your first **Quick sim**?

Guardar una simulación rápida

Instrucciones para estudiantes

En esta actividad, crearás tu primera simulación usando el Simulador **El verdadero juego**.

1. Navega hasta **El verdadero juego** en Xello desde tu panel haciendo clic en **Hogar** y luego seleccionando **El verdadero juego** en el menú desplegable.

Nota: Para regresar a tu panel de Xello, haz clic en el enlace **Regresar a Xello** del panel **El verdadero juego**. Para crear una partida nueva o acceder a partidas grabadas, haz clic en **Simulaciones rápidas** en el menú de navegación.

Agregar profesión

En este paso, agregarás una profesión (el papel que deseas representar en la simulación).

- 1 Elige una de tus profesiones guardadas en Xello y haz clic en **Listo**.
- 2 Revisa la información de tu nuevo papel en el modo "**¡Estás contratado!**" y haz clic en **Comenzar**.
- 3 Revisa tu **Liquidación de salario** haciendo clic en el nombre de tu profesión. Revisa tus **Deducciones** y compara tus **Ingresos brutos totales** con tu **Salario neto**.

Agregar información sobre educación

En este paso, elegirás un rumbo para después de la secundaria.

- 1 Haz clic en **Agregar educación**. Si es necesario, agrega información sobre educación o capacitación para la profesión que elijas seleccionando un rumbo para después de la secundaria. Para obtener más datos, haz clic en **Más información sobre estos rumbos**.
- 2 Elige la credencial que hayas obtenido. En algunos casos, es posible que puedas elegir entre la mínima educación requerida, la más común u otras opciones. Obtén más datos sobre credenciales haciendo clic en **Más información sobre credenciales**.

Nota: Puedes agregar credenciales personalizadas para rumbos relacionados con las Fuerzas Armadas, el trabajo directo o programas de aprendizaje. Estos rumbos no generan deuda estudiantil.

- 3 **Paso condicional:** busca una institución o deja que la selección sea al azar con la opción **Sorpréndeme**.

Nota: si ya guardaste instituciones en Xello, es posible que esas opciones estén disponibles.

- 4 **Paso condicional:** revisa o ajusta el monto que pagas por la deuda de tu préstamo estudiantil cada mes. Observa cómo las condiciones del préstamo cambian después de actualizar el monto de devolución mensual. Selecciona **Listo** cuando estés satisfecho con el desglose del préstamo.

Nota: Se recomienda gastar entre el 8 y el 10 % de tu ingreso disponible en la deuda por préstamo estudiantil.

- 5 Compara opciones para tu papel. Agrega más rumbos o instituciones para comparar los costos. Selecciona uno.

Guardar una simulación rápida

Editar familia

En este paso, elegirás tu información familiar.

- 1 Si lo deseas, agrega una pareja, cónyuge o mascotas a tu simulación de familia.

Nota: Agregar integrantes de la familia puede tener un impacto en tus ingresos y tus gastos. Por ejemplo, agregar un cónyuge aumentará tus ingresos por la suma de un salario promedio en todas las profesiones, pero también sumará una cantidad mensual adicional en concepto de gastos.

Agregar gastos

En este paso, elegirás tus gastos mensuales.

- 1 **Agrega gastosa** tu presupuesto haciendo clic en **Agregar gastos mensuales**. Tus gastos mensuales incluirán alojamiento, transporte, cocina, salidas a cenar, servicios públicos, comunicación, cuidado personal, entretenimiento, mantenimiento doméstico, atención médica, seguro, ropa y ahorros. También puedes agregar gastos personalizados.

Nota: Se recomienda ahorrar el 20 % de los ingresos.

- 2 Revisa la sección **Presupuesto mensual**. Observa tus gastos respecto de tus ingresos. ¿Son superiores, inferiores o iguales?

Presupuesto mensual

¿Cuál fue el resultado de tus decisiones financieras?

Reflexiona sobre las siguientes 3 preguntas:

- 1 Después de revisar tu **Presupuesto mensual**, ¿qué surgió al comparar tus gastos con tus ingresos en la simulación? ¿Fueron superiores, inferiores o iguales?
- 2 Revisa tus **Gastos**. ¿Qué dos decisiones que tomaste en la simulación tuvieron efecto en tu presupuesto?
- 3 ¿Qué aprendiste después de completar tu primera simulación de vida?