


# Understanding needs and wants (Year 3)

 30-45 mins

Learn about needs and wants – what they mean and how they differ between people and countries. Understanding the difference between needs and wants can make us better consumers.

This activity has been adapted from the unit of work: [The house of needs and wants](#).

## Outcomes

### Students:

- investigate how needs and wants impact spending
- examine differences between needs and wants
- compare 'no-name' and 'brand-name' products

## Curriculum links

### Science

- With guidance, plan and conduct scientific investigations to find answers to questions, considering the safe use of appropriate materials and equipment (AC SIS054)

### English

- Engage in conversations and discussions, using active listening behaviours, showing interest, and contributing ideas, information and questions (ACELY1656)

## Other resources

- Moneysmart unit of work: [The house of needs and wants](#)
- Moneysmart digiactivity: [Money and people](#)
- Moneysmart unit of work: [Bertie's socks](#)

## Discovery (30 mins)

### 1. Define needs and wants

Write or describe definitions for a 'need' and a 'want'. (**Worksheet 1**)

### 2. Your needs and wants

Now think about things you would use for a typical day at *school* and at *home*.

Then list or describe *five* items under each scenario and whether they are a 'need' or a 'want'? (**Worksheet 2**)

### 3. Understanding needs and wants

- Look at a catalogue (or in your own kitchen) and add *five* food items you think belong into the 'needs' column and *five* into the 'wants' column. (**Worksheet 3**).
  - Did you find any 'no name' brands? What was the price difference compared to a similar branded product?
- List or describe *two or more* reasons why understanding the difference between a *need* and a *want* can help you become a better consumer – eg. what might be some positive outcomes? (**Worksheet 4**).

### 4. Differing needs and wants

Complete the Digital resource: [Money and people](#) (5 mins)

- List or describe *five* reasons why would *needs* and *wants* might vary from country to country? (**Worksheet 5**).
- List or describe *five* reasons why your choice of items might be different to other people's choices. (**Worksheet 5**).

## Get practical (15 mins)

- Standard of living:** [Dollar Street](#) (gapminder.org) is an online resource that uses photo stories of 264 families across 50 countries to showcase how people around the world really live. Australia is not represented in this resource.
  - Click on a country and explore the link 'Visit this home'.
  - Go around your own house and take photos to compare the difference between your standard of living and other countries. (**Worksheet 6**)
- Taste test:** Why not conduct a 'taste test' to compare 'no-name' vs 'brand-name' to find out if your household could save on basics.

## Worksheet 1: Understanding needs and wants - Definition

What is a 'need'?	What is a 'want'?
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## Worksheet 2: Your needs and wants

Item for school		Item for home	
Need	Want	Need	Want
1.	1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.	5.
6.	6.	6.	6.
7.	7.	7.	7.
8.	8.	8.	8.
9.	9.	9.	9.
10.	10.	10.	10.

## Worksheet 3: Understanding needs and wants – Food items

What food items do you consider a 'need'?	What food items do you consider a 'want'?
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

## Worksheet 4: Understanding needs and wants – Benefits

Two or more reasons why understanding the difference between a <i>need</i> and a <i>want</i> can help you become a better consumer - eg. what are some positive outcomes?
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

## Worksheet 5: Differing needs and wants

Reasons why would needs and want vary from country to country?	Reasons why your choice of items might be different to other people's choices.
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

## Worksheet 6: Dollar street – Australian family

Below are some prompts of photos you could take of your home if you were represented on the Dollar Street website. Compare your photos to other countries to see the difference between the standard of living.

**Home of** \_\_\_\_\_ family.      **Monthly income:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_      **Country:** Australia

Family photo	Lounge room
Kitchen	Bedroom
Rug / floor	Light source in lounge room
Books	TV
Phone	Plate of food
Plates, cups	Favourite toy
Favourite shoes	Your teeth