



Escape the Box

EPISODE #305

LESSON LEVEL

Grades 6-8

KEY TOPICS

- Entrepreneurship
- Identify needs
- Problem solving

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Recognize business opportunities.
2. Initiate creative problem solving.
3. Actualize ideas.
4. Learn financial terms.

EPISODE SYNOPSIS

Escape the Box guides you in recognizing an opportunity, helps you know what to do when opportunity knocks, and introduces you to a group of young entrepreneurs who have solved problems and created their own businesses in the process. Their stories may spark your imagination to become a Biz Kid!

NATIONAL STANDARDS CORRELATIONS

Aligned to *National Financial Literacy Standards* from the **JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy.**

Financial Responsibility and Decision Making

Standard 1: Take responsibility for personal financial decisions.

Aligned to *Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics* from the **Council for Economic Education.**

Standard 2: Decision Making

Standard 14: Entrepreneurship

Aligned to **Common Core State Standards Initiative's** standards for *Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects.*

Standard 1: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Standard 4: Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

Standard 7: Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

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LESSON PREP & SCREENING

Getting Started

Familiarize yourself with the episode ahead of time. It will serve as a springboard for student learning, discussions, vocabulary exploration, and hands-on activities. Determine what equipment is required to show the episode in your classroom and request it if needed. Choose an activity (each one takes between 45-60 minutes), and gather supplies. Students will need a pen or pencil and copies of the activity worksheets. Have fun!

Screening

Introduce the series and the episode. Explain that Biz Kid\$ is a public television series that teaches kids about money and business. Mention that the bizkids.com website has lots of video clips, games, a blog, and other resources to help kids start businesses and learn about money. Prior to playing the episode, lead your students in a discussion with the preview questions on this page.

About the Episode

Escape the Box guides you in recognizing an opportunity, helps you know what to do when opportunity knocks, and introduces you to a group of young entrepreneurs who have solved problems and created their own businesses in the process. Their stories may spark your imagination to become a Biz Kid!

Episode Preview Questions

Before you show this Biz Kid\$ episode, lead your students in a brief discussion of the following questions:

- Do you ever daydream and think of unusual ideas?
- Are you stuck in conventional thinking, or are you innovative?
- Have you ever recognized a need and come up with a solution?

Next Steps

Show this episode. After the episode, read the Summary and Conclusion to the class.

Summary and Conclusion

Now you know what to do when opportunity knocks! When you recognize an opportunity in your life, you can be creative in your approach to problem solving.

Family Connection

Distribute a copy of the Family Activity Sheet to each student to share what they've learned with their families.



FAMILY ACTIVITY SHEET

Episode Synopsis

Escape the Box guides you in recognizing an opportunity, helps you know what to do when opportunity knocks, and introduces you to a group of young entrepreneurs who have solved problems and created their own businesses in the process. Their stories may spark your imagination to become a Biz Kid!

Activity Suggestions

Have a family discussion with your student and ask them to share what they learned from this episode about innovative thinking. Ask them about the inventions the Biz Kid\$ created, and what problems caused them to think of these solutions. Talk about the value of identifying a need and viewing it as an opportunity to come up with a unique solution.

As a family, see if you can identify a real problem that you can solve together by brainstorming ideas, drawing pictures, making a prototype, or seeking additional help. It's important to ask questions, be persistent, and to expect challenges. Don't forget to recognize the important lessons learned from failures!



Activity #1:

BIZ TERM\$

WORKSHEET FOR STUDENTS

Biz Term\$

- Brainstorming
- Business plan
- Energy efficient
- Environmentally friendly
- Mentor
- Persistent
- Pitch
- Prototype
- Strategy
- Visionary

Directions

With students, read aloud the Biz Term\$ and each question. Call on volunteers for answers, and have them explain why they chose the term they believe to be correct.

Biz Term\$ Episode Review

1. To promote an idea or product to others is to _____ it.
2. A person who supports and encourages you is a _____.
3. Thinking of and listing ideas about a problem or topic is _____.
4. A model or first draft is a _____.
5. Using energy, such as electricity, in a more effective manner is being _____.
6. A creative person with an idea or picture in their mind for the future is often called a _____ person.
7. A _____ is a method or technique for reaching a goal.



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Language Arts

- Have students construct sentences, write a paragraph, or create a story, skit, or dialog using Biz Term\$.
- Have students create a class Dictionary of Financial Terms using Biz Term\$.
- Have students start their own Journal of Personal Financial Education and continue to add to it.

History/Social Studies

- Thomas Edison is a famous inventor. We know him best for the invention of the light bulb. Using the internet or a library, find out more about him. How many companies did he start? How many patents does he have in the United States? What is one of the quotes that he is well known for?

Mathematics

- Amiya got a loan from her mother's company to buy the pink dance bus where she teaches dance. She is trying to pay back that loan. If the bus loan was \$3,000 then how long will it take her to pay back the loan if she charges \$5 per student and teaches 8 students per day for 4 days each week?

Economics

- In the United States, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) receives applications from inventors who want to register their ideas. Using the internet or a library, find out more about the USPTO. How many applications do they get each year? How much does it cost to submit an application? How many patents are actually given out in a year?

Optional Vocabulary Extensions

Make Art!

Ask students to create personal illustrated glossaries using sketches or cartoons to visually represent the meaning of each Biz Term.

Make It Personal!

Provide students with dictionaries and ask students to re-write formal definitions for each Biz Term in their own words to demonstrate comprehension.



Activity #2:

BRAINSTORMING

WORKSHEET FOR STUDENTS

Directions

In this episode, the Biz Kid\$ met some young entrepreneurs who were good at brainstorming. They got together with other people and discussed ideas for how to solve a problem or to make something better. Now it's your turn.

1. What is one problem that you can think of that has not been solved yet?

2. When you think about this problem, what ideas come to your mind?

3. From your ideas, what do you think is one way to solve the problem?

4. Is there a product or service that you use often, but you think it could be better? Describe the product or service and how you would improve it.

5. What could you do to get your idea for improving that product or service to actually be considered by that company?

Have students discuss these ideas and share their answers with the class.



Activity #3:

RFID BOARD GAMES

WORKSHEET FOR STUDENTS

Directions

In this episode, two of the Biz Kid\$ invented a board game that uses RFID electronic tags in the game cards. These cards play different music for each card when you wave it over the board. Now think about how you could use that RFID technology to make your own board game.

1. Their game was about classical music. What would your game be about?

2. Their game cards played part of a song when you waved them over the game board. For your game cards, will they play music, say words, or make other sound effects? What sounds will you use in your game?

3. They created pretend money called 'Bach Bucks.' But your pretend money could have RFID tags in the money too. RFID tags can hold data as well as sounds. What information would you want to put in each of your pieces of money? What would you call your money?

4. They tested the game with some of their friends who like music, and some who do not like music. Who would you ask to test your game, and why?

5. On the back of this page, draw a picture of your game board. It can be any size, shape, and colors that you want.

Have students discuss these ideas and share their answers with the class.



BIZ TERMS DEFINITIONS

- *Brainstorming:* A problem-solving technique where spontaneous ideas are listed or spoken in a group and discussed.
- *Business plan:* A detailed plan including the strategies planned to achieve the profit goals.
- *Energy efficient:* An object or process that uses less energy than previous versions, or something that does not use a lot of energy.
- *Environmentally friendly:* A product or service that does not cause harm to people or the earth.
- *Mentor:* A person who supports, encourages, and educates another person.
- *Persistence:* Something or someone that continues in spite of obstacles, does not give up.
- *Pitch:* To promote a product or idea to possible investors.
- *Prototype:* A model or first draft of an idea or object.
- *Strategy:* A plan or technique that will be used to reach a goal.
- *Visionary:* Someone creative who has an idea or a picture in their mind of what should happen in the future.



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