

Real-World Budget Project

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will apply all four operations with rational numbers to plan a realistic mini budget.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- a store ad, printed menu, or online prices
- notebook paper
- ruler
- pen or pencil
- calculator (for checking only)

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Imagine you have \$40.00 to plan a small event (a party, a gift shopping trip, or a meal for 4). Using real prices from an ad or menu, list at least 6 items you would buy with their decimal prices.
2. Using a ruler, draw a table with columns for Item, Price, Quantity, and Subtotal. Fill in the table, multiplying price x quantity for each subtotal.
3. Add all subtotals to find your total cost, then subtract from \$40.00 to find your remaining balance (or how much over budget you are).
4. If you have money left over, calculate what percent of your \$40.00 budget you spent; if you went over, calculate by what fraction or percent you'd need to cut your total to fit the budget.

QUESTIONS

1. **What was your total cost, and how much of your \$40.00 budget was left (or over)?**

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2. **What percent of your budget did you spend? Show your calculation.**

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3. **Pick one item from your table and explain how you calculated its subtotal.**
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- 4. Looking back at this quarter, which operation with rational numbers (adding, subtracting, multiplying, or dividing fractions/decimals/integers) do you feel most confident with now, and why?**
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