



COVER STORY: Moving Ahead/ Economy by the Numbers (pp. 6-9)

► **NCSS STANDARD**
Production, distribution,
& consumption

News reports on today's economic concerns abound. This article explains some of those concerns by showing how the current recession is affecting the lives of two teens and their families. The skills page provides relevant data.

■ Objectives

- Recognize how profoundly everyday life is affected by changes in a nation's economy.
- Distinguish between recession and depression.

■ The Basics

To help your students make sense of what they are hearing about the economy—and enable them to better discuss it—here are definitions for some commonly encountered terms. (*An expanded version is available as a reproducible at scholastic.com/juniorscholastic.*)

- **assets (n)**: all things of worth owned by a person or business, including cash, property, equipment, and money owed to them, as well as the value of the company's brand name and reputation.
- **bankrupt (adj)**: having been legally declared unable to pay one's debts.
- **credit (n)**: money or goods granted for use, under agreement that it will be repaid on a regular schedule.
- **economics (n)**: theory, principles, or practices based on the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services; also, the social science that studies such practices.
- **foreclosure (n)**: a legal process used to seize a house when an individual can't pay his or her *mortgage*.
- **mortgage (n)**: a loan from a bank for the purchase of a home or other major property.

■ Content-Area Questions

CULTURE/SOCIAL STUDIES

1. Why did 16-year-old Alex Jefferson have to find a job? How might the need to work affect a teen's relationship with his her or friends?
2. How might you help your family stay afloat in hard times?

GEOGRAPHY

1. Consult a map: In which compass direction did the Gaoa family travel in its relocation from

Chattanooga, Tennessee, to Bowling Green, Kentucky? (*northwest; north also acceptable*)

LANGUAGE ARTS

1. Put yourself in the shoes of Solomona Gaoa or one of his sisters and write an imaginary diary entry. How do you feel about having to move because of your father's new job? Include both pros and cons of such a major life change.

MATH

Note: Use the data on p. 9 to answer these two questions.

1. In 2008, which was greater: the number of properties with foreclosures filed on them, or the number of nonbusiness bankruptcies filed? (*the number of property foreclosures—more than 2 million, compared with around 1.1 million*)
2. The basic necessities—food, clothing, and shelter—accounted for what share of U.S. consumers' spending in 2007? (*half; 12% food + 4% apparel + 34% housing = 50%*)

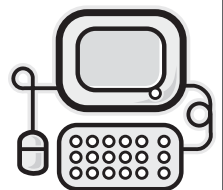
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Special: The Newest Justice (pp. 10-11)

► **NCSS STANDARD**
Power, authority, & governance

When the Supreme Court opens its 2009-2010 regular session on October 5, the bench will include Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic Justice—and only the third woman out of 111 Justices in the Court’s 220-year history.

■ Objectives

- Acknowledge a historic first and recognize Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15).
- Trace Sotomayor’s path to the Supreme Court.
- Review the system of checks and balances between the three branches of the U.S. government (see “Checks and Balances” reproducible, p. T-7).

■ Rapid Review

- What part did each branch of government play in this news story? (*Sotomayor was nominated by the President/executive and confirmed by the Senate/legislative to serve in the Supreme Court/judicial.*)
- What did some critics fear might affect Sotomayor’s objectivity as a Justice? (*the fact that she is an ethnic minority*)

■ Doing Justice

In accepting President Obama’s nomination last May (see *Web Links*), Sotomayor said, “I stand on the shoulders of countless people, yet there is one extraordinary person who is my life aspiration.

That person is my mother, Celina Sotomayor.” What does it mean to “stand on the shoulders” of others? If you were given a great opportunity, whom would you cite as a role model? Compose a brief statement about that individual and what he or she has taught you, then deliver it to the public (your classmates).

WEB LINKS

- Interactive chronology: nytimes.com/interactive/2000/05/26/us/politics/20090526_SOTOMAYOR_TIMELINE.html
- Sotomayor’s acceptance speech: abcnews.go.com/video/playerIndex?id=7677430



World History: Child Soldiers of Sparta (pp. 12-15)

► **NCSS STANDARD**
Culture & cultural diversity

What would it be like to have your future plotted out from birth? In ancient Sparta, male citizens had basically one choice in life.

■ Objectives

- Learn about the importance of Sparta in ancient Greece.
- Consider how people are affected when their society is oriented toward war.

■ Backstory

Spartans of the “golden age” believed in a legendary past that could be traced back to Menelaus, King of Sparta, and his queen, Helen. Helen’s running off with—or being kidnapped by—Paris of

Troy was the spark that set off the Trojan War, as related in Homer’s *Iliad*. Scholars date this possibly mythical conflict to the 12th or 13th century B.C.

■ Words’ Worth

Ancient Sparta was the inspiration for the adjectives *spartan* (marked by self-denial or frugality) and *laconic* (extremely terse; from the region of Laconia).

■ Rapid Review

How were Spartan boys toughened by the *agoge*? (*They were restricted to one garment and infrequent baths; often beaten and made to fight; taught to steal to survive.*)

■ A Perfect World?

Historian Paul Cartledge has called Sparta “an authoritative, hierarchical, and repressive utopia.” What is a utopia? Why might Spartans have seen their society this way? Why do humans find the idea of a utopia so appealing? Is a utopia even possible? Explain your answers.

WEB LINKS

- Ancient Greek civilizations: mnsu.edu/emuseum/prehistory/aegean/thecities/sparta.html
- Greek historian Herodotus on Thermopylae: edsitement.neh.gov/LaunchPad/Launch-Battle-of-Thermopylae.html