

ACTIVITY #1

Name: _____

For use with pages 14–15 in the November 8 & 22, 2010, issue of Scholastic *MATH* Magazine.

Learning Hourly Earnings

Before you worry about what taxes will be subtracted from your paycheck, you should know how much you've earned in the first place! The pay for many jobs is based on an hourly rate: For each hour you work, you get a set amount of money. Let's practice with some questions.

1 Many jobs in the United States are covered by federal minimum wage laws. The current U.S. minimum wage is \$7.25. So for these jobs, the very least your employer can pay you is \$7.25 an hour. If you worked for 8 hours at the U.S. minimum wage, how much would you earn?

2 You worked at Bertha's Burger Barn on a Saturday from 11:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. for the U.S. minimum wage. How much did you earn?

3 In the summer, you get a new job at Letta's Lettuce Lounge. Letta pays \$8.50 an hour. Your first week, you work 35 hours. How much did you earn?

4 Your second week at Letta's, you work 4 hours on Monday, 5.5 hours on Tuesday, 6 hours on Wednesday, 3 hours on Friday, and 8 hours on Saturday. How much did you earn for the week?

5 You've impressed Letta. She puts you in charge of salad dressing and gives you a raise, to \$9.75 an hour. Your first week at the new wage, you work from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Monday, 11:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, and 1:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday (for Letta's "Lotta Lettuce" celebration). How much did you earn that week?

6 Artist Vincent Van Slow took 53 hours to complete the "Mount Rushmore With Lettuce Heads" painting on the wall of Letta's restaurant. He charged Letta \$1,855. What is Vincent's hourly pay?

7 Bertha asks Vincent to make her a statue of her new Inside-Out Burger: A bun between two hamburger patties. He charges the same hourly fee as in question #6, and earns \$2,957.50. How many hours did Vincent work on the statue?