



# Ice Cream Truck Budget Builder

When the ice cream truck rolls down your street, it feels like summer magic—but it’s also a perfect moment to practice smart money skills.

Before you choose your treats from the ice cream truck, it helps to understand how money works.

- **Money** is something we use to trade for the things we want or need.
- Your **budget** is the amount of money you have to spend.
- Each treat has a **cost**, which tells you how much money you must give in exchange for it.
- When you **spend**, you’re trading your money for something you want right now.
- Whe you **save**, you’re choosing to keep your money so you can trade it for something later.
- Sometimes you might even **trade** one choice for another—like picking a popsicle instead of a an ice cream sandwich—so you can stay within your budget.

Learning how these trades work helps you make smart decisions, whether you’re buying ice cream or saving for something bigger.

With **\$6** to spend at the ice cream truck, practice picking treats and adding up the costs. If you go over your budget, trade something for a less expensive option or remove an item. Choose wisely!



## Inside the Mint

Did you know that coins and dollar bills are made in special places called mints and printing facilities? The very first U.S. Mint opened in 1792 in Philadelphia, and it’s still there today! Today, the United States has several mint locations, and they work hard to create the money our country uses every day.

Coins start out as flat metal discs called blanks. Huge machines heat, cut, and polish the metal until it’s ready. Then comes the coolest part: the stamping press. This giant machine slams down with tons of pressure to stamp the pictures and numbers onto each coin, like George Washington’s face on the quarter. The press is so strong it can stamp hundreds of coins every minute.

Paper money is made differently. Dollar bills aren’t printed on regular paper—they’re printed on a special cotton and linen blend that makes them strong. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing uses giant printers to layer on the designs, colors, and tiny details. Every bill gets special security features like watermarks, color-shifting ink, and hidden threads to stop counterfeiters from making fake money.

Every year, the U.S. Mint creates billions of new coins, and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing produces millions of new bills. So, the next time you hold a dollar or a shiny coin, remember it took science, machines, and a whole lot of history to get it into your hands.



kids  
CLUB

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### Summer Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters below to reveal summer-themed words.

1. BACHE

2. VELART

3. SUTIWMIS

4. AACVNOTI

5. LREOWMNETA

Solution:  
1. BEACH; 2. TRAVEL;  
3. SWIMSUIT; 4. VACATION;  
5. WATERMELON

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# Winners of the *Kids Club* Spring Coloring Contest

We drew random entries to choose the members who would receive a \$10 deposit to their Kids Savings accounts. Congratulations to the winners!

**Thomas S.**  
Age 9

**Eleanor K.**  
Age 11

**Evie H.**  
Age 12

## Connect With Us

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[scfederal.org](https://www.scfederal.org)

**Contact Center**  
(800) 845-0432  
[ContactCenter@scfederal.org](mailto:ContactCenter@scfederal.org)

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# Summer Coloring Contest

Color this image and send your artwork to us. You'll automatically be entered into a drawing for a \$10 deposit to your [Kids Savings](#) account and have your name appear in the next newsletter.



**DEADLINE: August 31, 2026**

Mail your entry to:  
**South Carolina Federal Credit Union**  
**Kids Club, Summer Coloring Contest**  
**P.O. Box 190012**  
**N. Charleston, SC 29419-9012**

Name

Birthdate (Month/Day/Year)

# Summertime word search

**WORD LIST:**

AUGUST  
BARBECUE  
CHERRY  
FIREWORKS  
GOGGLES  
LAWN MOWER  
OUTDOORS  
SAND CASTLE  
SUNGLASSES  
UMBRELLA  
VACATION  
WATERMELON

R T O B A R B E C U E G  
Z N R E W O M N W A L M  
X O T S U G U A O J F D  
G L S E S S A L G N U S  
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**Solution:**