

My name: _____

When we want more than there is, that is called scarcity.

Say this: “Naiya has three coins. She wants four things. Count the things she wants. Count her coins. Is there enough? Circle YES or NO. Then circle the three she should get.”



coin



coin



coin



ice cream • 1 coin



balloon • 1 coin



pencil • 1 coin



juice • 1 coin



YES



NO

Milo Moment: “Scarcity is a big word for a small idea: there is never enough for every want. That is why we choose.”

Answers and talking points

What a good answer looks like, and one question to ask when the pencils go down.

K-2

The answer, and the only part that is fixed

Naiya has **three coins** and wants **four things**, each costing one coin. **Is there enough? NO.** That is the one right answer on the page. Which three she should get is **entirely the child's choice** — ice cream, balloon, pencil and juice are deliberately ordinary so that no option is obviously correct. Do not steer them toward the pencil.

Ask: "Which one was hardest to leave out?" The thing they nearly chose is the cost of the choice, and naming it is the whole lesson.

K-2

What the word is doing here

Scarcity is a social-studies word a five-year-old can carry: there is never enough for every want, which is why anyone has to choose at all. Milo says it plainly on the page. If a child objects that Naiya could just get more coins, that is a good objection — ask where the fourth coin would come from, and who would go without it.

Ask: "Does this ever happen to grown-ups?" Yes, and with the same arithmetic.

Want the rest of the unit?

This page is one activity, unchanged, from **Unit 1.2 — Needs and Wants**, a Financial Foundations™ unit of 10 to 12 lessons with teacher scripts, family letters and a unit checkpoint. For a free five-day money game your students can play in a browser, try **The \$100 Week™**. Everything is at wealthwisekids.org.