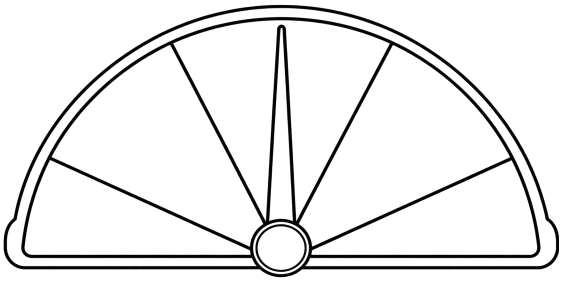
The Want-o-Meter

Name _____ Date _____

You get $10 a week. How many weeks would you wait for each want? (Round up!) Then rate it: is it worth that wait?

#		Want	Price	Weeks of $10	Worth it? 1–5
1		Skateboard	$60		
2		Pizza slice	$3		
3		Movie popcorn	$5		
4		Teddy bear	$15		
5		Soccer ball	$20		
6		Building blocks	$40		
7		Phone case	$12		
8		Roller skates	$50		



Not worth it **SO worth it!**

Write each want's **#** in the part of the meter where it belongs.

1. Buying the skates uses $50. Name two other wants that $50 could buy instead.

_____

MY MONEY CHOICE

Which want is worth waiting for? Why?

_____

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The Want-o-Meter

The quick lesson (read aloud, about 1 minute)

> When you buy one thing, you give up everything else that money could have bought. That's called **opportunity cost**. Counting the weeks it takes to save helps you feel the real price of a want. Some wants are worth the wait. Others lose their shine.

Two teaching points

1. Opportunity cost: every yes is a no to something else.
2. Weeks to save = price ÷ weekly money (round up).

Answer key

Weeks of $10 (rounded up): Skateboard 6 · Pizza slice 1 · Movie popcorn 1 · Teddy bear 2 · Soccer ball 2 · Building blocks 4 · Phone case 2 · Roller skates 5.
Ratings and meter spots are personal. Question 1: many pairs work, for example the teddy bear + soccer ball ($35), or the building blocks + popcorn ($45).

10-minute run

1. Find the weeks for each want (5 min).
2. Rate each want and place it on the meter.
3. Answer question 1 together.

Ask

"Did any want feel less exciting once you counted the weeks?"

Goal

Every choice costs the other things you could have bought. That's called opportunity cost.

Take it further

Ask: if your allowance doubled to $20, which wants would move on your meter?

Standard: National Standards for Personal Financial Education (Council for Economic Education and Jump$tart), area: **Spending**. Print double-sided: the activity on the front, this teaching side on the back.

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