

Choose Your Own Adventure with Investors

Take the following characters, who are all investors in the original Bank of North America, and create a game! The game can be played as a whole class by dividing the class into 8 groups and each group gets one investor. Another way is to divide the class into small groups throughout the classroom where each student plays their own investor, but groups cannot be larger than 8 since there are only 8 investors. Students will need to know addition and subtraction as well as how to multiply by 2. (Each character comes with a short biography)

Characters:

Robert Morris: a founding father and a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly and a United States Senator after the Revolutionary War. He is credited as the main founder of the Bank of North America.

James Wilson: a founding father and lawyer in John Dickinson's law office and then set up his own practice in Reading, PA. He moved to Philadelphia and was named a Director of the Bank of North America as well as a Associate Justice on the supreme court.

John Nixon: made the first public proclamation of the Declaration of Independence from the steps of the Pennsylvania State House on July 8th 1776. He served in the army as a colonel under George Washington and became President of the Bank of North America in 1792.

Thomas Mifflin: a founding father and merchant from Philadelphia, he later became Pennsylvania's first Governor. He was a successful business man located in Philadelphia and prominent in Washington's army.

Thomas Willing: a business partner of Robert Morris, Willing was also the President of the Bank of North America and he opposed the Declaration of Independence, although he eventually gave money to the revolutionary cause after the Revolutionary War began.

Samuel Powel: the last colonial mayor of Philadelphia and the first mayor after the Revolution. He eventually died of Yellow Fever in the epidemic of 1793. His residence can still be toured on 244 South 3rd street in Philadelphia.

Benjamin Rush: a founding father and a celebrated physician of his time. He was a well respected character in the city of Philadelphia and was the premier physician during the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1793.

Joseph Reed: founding father and important military and political figure during the Revolutionary War. He was the President of Pennsylvania during the war, prosecuted the traitor Benedict Arnold, and oversaw the abolishment of slavery in Pennsylvania.

Materials needed:

Paper
Event Cards
Money Cards
Characters



Event Cards:

1. Your son contracts yellow fever and you must pay for Dr. Benjamin Rush to visit, pull a money card for amount lost and give that money to Benjamin Rush.
2. Trade is good in Philadelphia multiply your bank account by 2, if your bank account has a negative amount then it will become zero.
3. The British soldiers looted your house, pull a money card for amount lost.
4. Your bank account gains interest, pull a money card for amount gained.
5. You took out a loan with Thomas Willing, pull a money card for amount lost and pay to Thomas Willing.
6. You decide to buy land from Robert Morris, pull a money card for amount lost and pay to Robert Morris.
7. James Wilson is in debt and you agree to pay it off for him, pull a money card for amount lost and pay amount to James Wilson.
8. You get caught stealing from John Nixon, pull a money card for amount lost and pay to John Nixon.
9. You decide to throw a lavish party to show off your wealth, pull a money card for amount lost.
10. You win the lottery, pull a money card for amount gained and multiply amount by 2.
11. You write Thomas Mifflin a personal check after buying goods from him, pull a money card for amount lost and pay to Thomas Mifflin.
12. Pay the Mayor Samuel Powel for his contributions to the city, pull a money card for amount lost and pay to Samuel Powel.
13. You hire Joseph Reed as your lawyer, pull a money card for amount lost and pay to Joseph Reed.
14. You are a merchant and your shipment of goods is lost at sea, pull a money card for amount lost.
15. You are a merchant and your shipment of goods arrives, pull a money card for amount gained.
16. You are a soldier in the Continental Army and it is pay day, pull a money card for amount gained.
17. George Washington invites you to dinner and you need a new outfit, pull a money card for amount lost.
18. You decide to build a new house and need to take out a loan, pull a money card for amount lost.
19. You help a friend in need, pull a money card for amount gained.
20. You help the new fire company by donating money, pull a card for amount lost.
21. You decide to work as a senator, pull a money card for amount gained.
22. You decide to get married, pull a money card for amount gained in wedding gifts.
23. It is your birthday, pull a money card for amount gained.
24. Your parents are ill, pull a money card for amount lost to take care of them.
25. You buy a newspaper, lose one dollar.
26. You buy fruit from the market, lose 5 dollars.
27. Give the player or team to your right 50 dollars for bailing you out of debtor's prison.

28. You won a court case, pull a money card for amount gained.
29. Rent is due, pull a money card for amount lost and multiply by 2.
30. Your renters owe you money for living on your land, pull a money card for amount gained and multiply by 2.

How to Play:

Step 1: Each student begins with a piece of paper that says 100 dollars at the top and that is how much is in their bank account to begin.

Step 2: A student will pull a card from the event pile and do what it says. If it instructs them to pull a money card they will pull a money card as well from the top of the money pile and depending on the card they will either lose or gain that amount of money.

For example: If they pull the event that says “Your son contracts yellow fever and you must pay for Dr. Benjamin Rush to visit, pull a money card for amount.” Then the student will pull a money card and whatever amount is on that card is how much they lose and the Benjamin Rush character will gain. So if the money card says 20 the person who pulled the card will lose 20 and the person who is Benjamin Rush will earn 20. If Benjamin Rush pulls this card they will stay neutral and will not lose or gain any money. Students can go into negative amounts.

Step 3: Depending on card pulled student will add or subtract the amount to the 100 dollars they begin with.

Step 4: Each student will pull a card and repeat this process. If they have a negative amount in their account at the end of three turns they must declare bankruptcy. Whoever ends with the most money is the winner.