

## LEARNING EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW

# JA Our Nation<sup>®</sup>

## JA IN A DAY

### ■ Work and Career Readiness

*JA Our Nation* introduces fifth-grade students to the intersection of work readiness and upper elementary grades social studies learning objectives. Through hands-on classroom activities, the learning experience provides students with practical information about the nation's free market system and how it serves as an economic engine for businesses and careers. The curriculum also introduces the need for entrepreneurial and innovative thinking to meet the requirements of high-growth, high-demand careers and the concept of globalization in business.

The JA in a Day model consists of five kit-based, volunteer-taught sessions that include primary and secondary objectives from the traditional learning experience. Each JA in a Day session is 35–40 minutes. The JA in a Day implementation model will receive four Instructional Contact Hours upon registration.

**Concepts:** Businesses, careers, career clusters, collaboration, communication, competition, competitor, consumer, critical thinking, engineering, employees, employers, entrepreneur, free market economy, global economy, goods and services, human capital, innovation, invention, interdependence, job specialization, opportunity cost, product, producer, profit, resources, resume, skills, technology, work readiness

**Skills:** Analyzing occupations, analyzing information, brainstorming, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, decision making, estimating, following written instructions, interpersonal skills, interpreting economic issues, map reading, organizing information, prioritizing, problem solving, reasoning, speaking and listening, STEM skills, teamwork, working cooperatively, working in pairs, written communication

## LEARNING EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

### Features of the JA in a Day Guide for Teachers and Volunteers:

- Format is redesigned for easy delivery of the JA in a Day model.
- Introduction and conclusion are specific to the JA in a Day model.
- Preparation content appears in the front of the guide instead of within each session.
- The Summary and Review, Extended Learning Opportunities, and Supplemental Session have been removed from the learning experience.
- Information pertaining to optional digital resources has been added.

## CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session	Overview <i>Students...</i>	Objectives <i>Students will be able to...</i>	Changes from Traditional Implementation
<b>SESSION ONE</b> <b>Free to Choose Your Work or Business</b>	Are introduced to the nation's free market system and how it supports businesses and careers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the characteristics of a free market economy.</li> <li>Explain how pricing guides economic decisions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students price one item only.</li> </ul>
<b>SESSION TWO</b> <b>Innovation Nation</b>	Experience how entrepreneurial thinking can spur new businesses and the opportunity for future income.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define <i>entrepreneur</i> and <i>entrepreneurship</i>.</li> <li>Describe resources and how entrepreneurs use them.</li> <li>Explore STEM skills and the process of innovation.</li> </ul>	
<b>SESSION THREE</b> <b>Career Quest</b>	Learn about career clusters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examine career groupings and the skills necessary for a variety of careers.</li> </ul>	
<b>SESSION FOUR</b> <b>Get and Keep the Job!</b>	Examine important work-readiness and behavioral skills needed for career success.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the soft skills wanted by today's employers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following key terms have been removed from the session: <i>resume</i>, <i>communication</i>, and <i>job interview</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>SESSION FIVE</b> <b>Global Connections</b>	Explore how the United States is connected to the global economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss why businesses specialize and trade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following key terms have been removed from the session: <i>opportunity cost</i> and <i>specialization</i>.</li> <li>The program wrap-up has been shortened to save time.</li> </ul>

**Note:** The *JA Our Nation* program kit is used for both traditional and JA in a Day implementation models. A separate JA in a Day Guide for Volunteers and Teachers is available for download and/or local printing.