

# Basic Microeconomic Concepts - Unit 1

Content Area: **Social Studies**  
Course(s): **AP Macro Economics**  
Time Period: **September**  
Length: **2 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Enduring Understandings

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Everything has a cost and people use economic thinking to make choices

## Essential Questions

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How do people use economic thinking to make choices?

How do we apply scarcity concepts to a variety of economic situations?

How do we define the “economic way of thinking”?

## Content

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Reference to New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, New Jersey 21st Century Life & Career Skills, New Jersey Technology Literacy, Common Core State Standards for Math, and Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects for this unit.

Definitions of ‘Micro’ and ‘Macro’ Economics (L.11-12.4)

Definitions of “opportunity cost, economic way of thinking” (L.11-12.4)

Advantages of Trade (6.1.12.C.16.c)

Topic #1: Define Economics

## Micro vs. Macro Economics

Topic #2: The Economic Way of Thinking.

Define opportunity cost

Define the economic way of thinking

Apply scarcity concepts to a variety of economic and noneconomic situations

Topic #3: Specialization and Trade

Define specialization and exchange

Use data to determine absolute and comparative advantage

### **Skills**

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Students will be able to ...

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1. Identify “macro” and “micro” issues (RH.11-12.4)
2. Use a Production Possibilities Curve to identify opportunity costs (RI.11-12.7.)
3. Analyze information to determine absolute and comparative advantage ( RH.11-12.7)

**Performance Tasks**: Activities to provide evidence for student learning of content and cognitive skills.

Label basic economic models/graphs

Quick write explaining specialization and relating it to comparative advantage

## **Resources**

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*Principles of Economics: AP Edition*

### **Suggested Options for Differentiation**

Student choice in note-taking formats

Visual representations

Collaborative group activities

Student Partnerships

Alternative readings

Mnemonics

## **Standards**

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6.1.12.C.16.c Assess the impact of international trade, global business organizations, and overseas competition on the United States economy and workforce.

RI.11-12.7 Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.

RH.11-12.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in text, including analyzing how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term over the course of a text.

RH.11-12.7 Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., quantitative data, video, multimedia) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

L.11-12.4 Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

