COST OF SMOKING

**Topic Area:** Consequences of tobacco use

**Audience:** Middle School/High School (with variation)

**Method:** Classroom Activity

**Time Frame:** 25 minutes plus discussion

**Materials Needed:** Cost of smoking worksheet for each student, calculator for each group.

**Learning Objectives:**
- Students will learn that smoking has other consequences of use besides negative health effects.

**Activity:**
- Pass out a “Cost of Smoking” worksheet to every student.
- Explain that a pack of cigarettes costs about $6.00 per pack, including taxes. Some cigarettes cost less, but some cost more.
- Ask them how much it would cost for someone to smoke ½ pack of cigarettes in one day, 2 packs in one day, and 1½ packs in one day. Check their answers, and if they are correct, have each student fill this out on their worksheet.
- Continue filling out the chart on the worksheets. Check their answers.
- Split the class up into 4-6 groups. Tell each group that they are going to spend the money they save by not smoking on the items on the worksheet.
- Assign each group a designated amount to spend: The amount of money that a person would spend on 1 pack per day for a month, or 1 pack a day for 10 years, or 2 packs a day for 1 year.
- Tell the groups that they can spend all of their money by buying as many of the items they want, in any combination they want.
- Have one student from each group stand up, say how much money they had to spend, and tell the class what they bought with that money.
- **VARIATION:** Bring in Sunday flyers and catalogs from department stores, toy stores, electronic stores, etc. to have them choose items to “purchase”. This would be more appropriate for older students.

**Discussion Ideas:**
- Were you surprised at how much cigarettes cost? And how it adds up over time?
- Was it easy or hard to spend all the money? Why?
- What are some other things you can buy with the money you save if you don’t smoke?
COST OF SMOKING (CONTINUED)

ANSWER KEY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>½ Pack</th>
<th>1 Pack</th>
<th>1½ Packs</th>
<th>2 Packs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Day</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.00 / 2=</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>6.00 x 1.5=</td>
<td>6.00 x 2=</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Month</strong></td>
<td>$3.00 x 30=</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
<td>$9.00 x 30=</td>
<td>$12.00 x 30=</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$90.00</td>
<td>$180.00</td>
<td>$270.00</td>
<td>$360.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year</strong></td>
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<td>$1095.00</td>
<td>$9.00 x 365=</td>
<td>$12.00 x 365=</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$2190.00</td>
<td>$3,285.00</td>
<td>$4,380.00</td>
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<td><strong>10 Years</strong></td>
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<td>$10,950.00</td>
<td>$3285.00 x 10=</td>
<td>$4380.00 x 10=</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$10,950.00</td>
<td>$21,900.00</td>
<td>$32,850.00</td>
<td>$43,800.00</td>
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## COST OF SMOKING

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With $___________, I could buy:

- **Compact Discs**
  - $17 per CD
  - $__________

- **Bicycles**
  - $120 per bike
  - $__________

- **Basketballs**
  - $10 per ball
  - $__________

- **Movie Tickets**
  - $18 per pair of tickets
  - $__________

- **Large Pizzas**
  - $15 per pizza
  - $__________

- **TVs**
  - $100 per TV
  - $__________