

The 5 Jars

Where Every Dollar Goes

Every dollar gets a job.

Coloring & Activity Book (K-G3)

PILLAR 01 of 6 · Showcase Preview · 2026-05-31

The big idea. Every dollar needs a job. The Five Jars give each dollar one job to do. EARN brings money in. SAVE keeps money for a bigger thing later. SPEND uses money for a treat or a need today. GIVE helps someone who needs it. GOAL builds up to the big thing you want most. Jars with jobs make money easy.

The Scenario

A kid earns \$10 raking leaves. Forge — the maker-mentor — walks into the kitchen with a crate of 5 empty jars. Together they paint the labels EARN, SAVE, SPEND, GIVE, GOAL — then split the \$10 across the jars. At dinner, the kid shows the family. Four weeks later, the bike goal is funded.

Key Words

EARN — Money you bring in — from a job, a chore, a gift, or selling something you made.

SAVE — Money you keep on purpose, for a bigger thing later.

SPEND — Money for a small joy or need today.

GIVE — Money for someone who needs it more — a friend, a cause, a community.

GOAL — Money aimed at a specific thing you want to build toward.

Coloring & Activity (K-G3)

Color the story! On the next page, you'll find big bold shapes that tell this story. Use crayons, markers, or pencils - make it yours.

Activity 1 - Trace the Path Trace the path the story takes. Start at the EARN jar. End at the GOAL jar.

Activity 2 - Draw Your Own Draw what YOUR story looks like. Use the same simple shapes (arrows, jars, mountains, signs). No words needed - just shapes and colors.

Show your drawing to a grown-up tonight. Tell them the story in your own words. That's how you know you got it.

Citations & Sources

This Pillar's content is anchored to the K-12 financial literacy canon. Primary sources:

Lechter, Sharon. Rich Kid Smart Kid (Warner Books, 2001) — the 4-jar system that this 5-jar version extends.

NGPF (Next Gen Personal Finance). K-4 Personal Finance Standards: spend, save, share.

Jump\$tart Coalition. National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education (2021), K-4 spending/saving.

Mackey, Lori. Money Mama and the Three Little Pigs — multi-jar canonical K-G2 reading.

Council for Economic Education (CEE). Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics.

Cross-Links

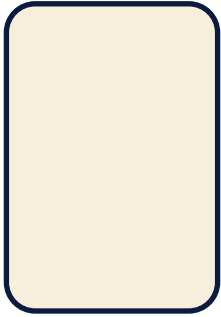
Paywall deepening. Money Smarts (MS) tract — 60+ episodes deepen each jar across K-G12.

Capstone ladder. K-G4 jars → G5-G8 budget mechanics → G9-G12 personal cash-flow planning → G12 capstone (LLC owner managing real revenue jars).

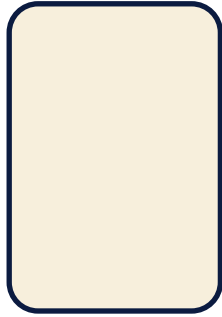
Narrative arc. Pillar 1 of 6. Next: Pillar 2 (Risk vs Reward — protect + grow the SAVE jar).

Color the Story

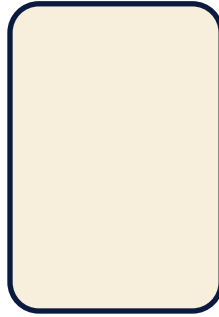
Use the shapes below to color the scenario in your own way.



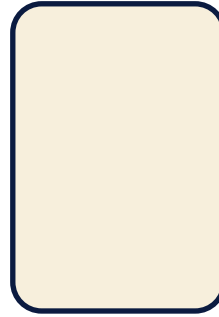
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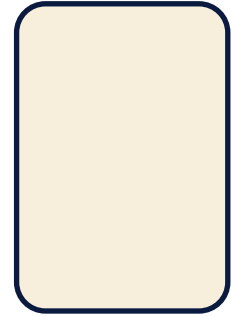
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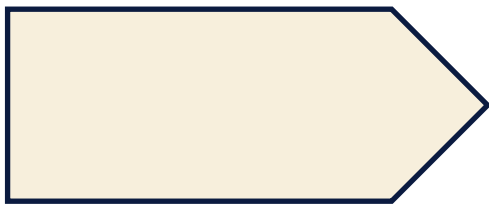
(3)



(4)



(5)



(Color the arrow with your favorite color — that's the direction the story is going.)