

Taxes Don't Hate You

Where Our Tax Pennies Really Go

Taxes are how we all chip in together for the things everyone gets to share.

Coloring & Activity Book (K-G3)

PILLAR 04 of 6 · Showcase Preview · 2026-05-31

The big idea. Taxes aren't a punishment — they're how everyone chips in a little. Tax money helps pay for roads, schools, parks, libraries, and firefighters. When grown-ups earn money, a small part goes to taxes and the rest comes home. Knowing where it goes makes taxes fair, not scary.

The Scenario

Forge and a kid walk through town together. They pass the school, the library, the fire station, and a smooth new road. Forge asks: who pays for all of this? Everyone does — a little bit at a time, from the money grown-ups earn. At the store, the kid buys a toy and spots a few extra cents on the receipt. That's tax too! Those little cents join everyone else's cents and build the big things we all share.

Key Words

TAX - A small part of money that goes to pay for things we all share. EARN - Getting money for doing a job. Grown-ups earn money at work. TAKE-HOME - The money left for the family after the tax part is paid. CHIP IN - Everyone pays a little, so no one has to pay for everything alone. PUBLIC - Things everyone gets to use - roads, schools, parks, and libraries. RECEIPT - The little slip of paper that shows what you paid - tax cents included. FAIR SHARE - The part each person gives. Bigger earnings give a bigger part. HELPERS - Firefighters, teachers, and road fixers - tax money helps pay them.

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 coin that was earned. End at the school it helped build.

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:

IRS Publication 17. Your Federal Income Tax (For Individuals).

IRS Form W-4. Employee's Withholding Certificate (2026 version).

Social Security Administration. FICA & SECA Tax Rates (FICA pronunciation /**fa****k**/ per ssa.gov).

NGPF. G9-G12 Taxes unit + W-4 simulation.

Jump\$tart. G9-G12 Tax Planning Standards.

Cross-Links

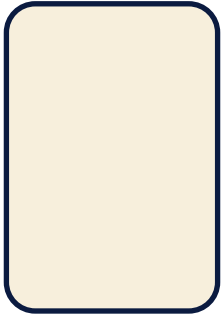
Paywall deepening. Tax tract — 24 episodes K-G12 deepen paycheck → W-4 → Schedule C → Roth IRA → S-corp transitions.

Capstone ladder. K-G4 'where the dollar went' → G5-G8 'paycheck anatomy' → G9-G12 'first paycheck + Schedule C side hustle' → G12 capstone (LLC owner files Schedule C or S-corp tax return).

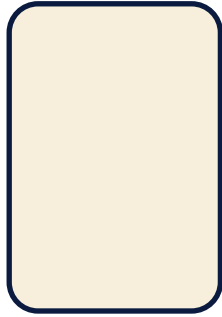
Narrative arc. Pillar 4 of 6. Prior: Pillar 3 (Compound). Next: Pillar 5 (Make Sell Stand — the earning side at scale).

Color the Story

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



(1)



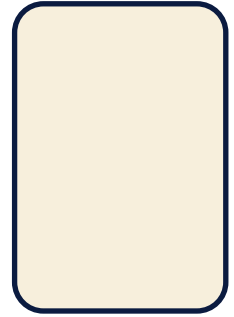
(2)



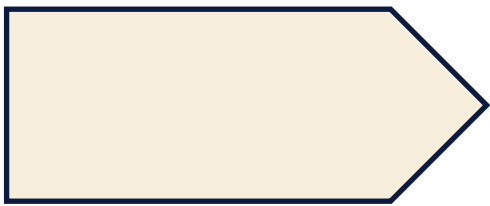
(3)



(4)



(5)



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