

Modern Marvels

The Stock Exchange

Everyday the events that take place in the Stock Exchange influence lives the world over. Economic fluctuations, boom and bust economies, rag-to-riches are all part of the volatile world of the Stock Exchange. The Exchange, perched majestically on New York's famous Wall Street, is the indicator for the economic health of the country and the rest of the world. A modern day Mecca for those who strive to make their fortunes, the Stock Exchange can be a fickle master; one day creating untold wealth, and wiping it away the next.

The Stock Exchange would be useful for classes on American History, American Culture, Economics, and Science and Technology. It is appropriate for middle school and high school.

Students will develop a clear understanding of the Stock Market. They will be able to discuss what a stock is and the role the market plays in determining the state of the economy.

Discussion Questions

1. What are stocks? What are shares of stock?
2. What are the origins of stock investment?
3. Wall Street is known throughout the world. How did this famous street get its name?
4. How did the advent of the railroads in the 19th century change the stock market?
5. What are the origins of the terms "bull" and "bear?" Which of these terms refers to the market today?
6. Who are Dow and Jones? What is their relationship to the Stock Exchange?
7. What is the Dow Jones Industrial Average?
8. What is the difference between the Dow and NASDAQ?
9. How and why did the stock market crash in 1929? What, if any steps, have been taken to prevent a crash, similar to the 1929 crash, from happening?
10. Discuss the effects of a stock market crash. Is it possible that it could happen again?

Discuss why or why