

LINX EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE

APARTMENT RENTAL: FINDING A PLACE TO LIVE

Activity 1: NEEDS VS. WANTS

Explain the difference between needs and wants in finding a place to live.

Directions: If you were to rent an apartment, make a list of what you NEED in an apartment and list of what you would LIKE to have, your WANTS.

Activity 2: LET'S FIND A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE! PART ONE:

Directions: List 5 ways to find a place to live.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

PART TWO:

Directions: Bring in the Classified Ad section of the newspaper. Individually or in teams of 3 or 4, go through the section with apartments for rent and circle those that meet your needs list; then determine if any of these include some of your wants. (At this time, we aren't considering the COST of the apartment!) Discuss with your class or team why you made the choices you did, and what made you NOT choose a specific place.

Next, do an internet search for apartments for rent in your area. Most of these will be in apartment complexes. Try www.rent.com as well as other sites specific to your geographic area.

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Activity 3: WHAT DO I KNOW?

Directions: Define the following terms.

Security deposit: _____

Lease agreement: _____

Sub-let: _____

Fair Housing Act: _____

Renters Insurance: _____

Activity 4: TIPS FOR FINDING A PLACE TO LIVE

Directions: List 5 of the 6 tips described in the program as Tips for finding a place to live:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Activity 5: YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS...

Directions: Investigate insurance costs to find out what renter's insurance will cost. Have 2 or 3 students contact different insurance agents in your area to inquire about insurance rates for a one bedroom apartment. Have them write down information they need to know to get insurance. Ask them to report their findings back to the class. Have another 2 or 3 students investigate moving costs by contacting moving companies. Have them inquire about costs to move the contents of a one bedroom apartment from one area to another within your town/city. Report findings back to the class.

ANSWER KEY

Activity 1: NEEDS VS. WANTS

Individual options will vary

Activity 2: LET'S FIND A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!

Finding a place: drive around, visit apartment complexes, classifieds, bulletin boards, rental agencies and guides, internet.

Activity 3: WHAT DO I KNOW?

* Security Deposit: the money given to the landlord to cover any expenses for damage or to clean-up if you don't leave the apartment as you found it when you moved in.

* Lease Agreement: the signed contract between the landlord and the person leasing with terms and conditions of the rental.

* Sub-Let: to allow another person to lease the apartment from you if you must move before your lease is up. Most landlords won't agree to this.

* Fair Housing Act: no discrimination for any reason: race, national origin, etc.

* Renter's Insurance: insurance only on contents of residence; also called Tenant's Insurance.

Activity 4: TIPS FOR FINDING A PLACE TO LIVE

1. Plan to spend one month looking
2. Housing costs should not exceed 30-35% of your income
3. Use internet to find complexes
4. Read and understand the lease
5. A pet deposit may be required
6. Ask friends and family for furniture, cookware and linens.

Activity 5: YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS...

Individual options will vary