

Financial \$marts For Teens

Put to the Test



1. What is the average debt for Montana graduating seniors in 2010? _____
 A) \$16,429
 B) \$22,346
 C) \$34,569
2. What percent of teens have credit cards? _____
3. What percent of 2009 graduates from Montana universities had student loans? _____
4. What percent of teens reported they and they will spend less money in 2011 because of current economic conditions? _____
5. What amount do teens spend per week? _____

ANSWERS: 1. B, 2. 11% 3. 68% 4. 56% (Source: 2007 Charles Schwab Teens & Money Survey)
 5. \$103/week (Source: Teenage Research Unlimited)



Did You Know...

- ◆ Buying one pop (\$1.50) per school day (180 days) will cost \$270 each school year.
- ◆ U.S. Savings Bonds can be purchased in amounts as low as \$25.
- ◆ Making just the minimum payment on a credit card with an 18% interest rate can take years to pay off the entire balance. See table below:

Balance	Years to pay off (Paying only Minimum Payment)	Years to pay off (Paying double the Minimum Payment)
\$1,000	8	4
\$5,000	16	7
\$10,000	20	8
\$15,000	22	9



Minimum payment is assumed to be the greater of 3% of the current balance or \$15.

Continued on the back...

Comic Relief



TIPS to Become a \$aver!

1. Open up a savings account.
2. Set realistic financial goals.
3. Don't use credit cards to buy things you can't afford.
4. If you have a job, put \$10 or \$20 each pay period into a savings account.
5. Maintain your savings account. A maintenance fee may be charged if your balance falls below a certain amount.
6. Reduce your Spending! For example, rent a video with friends instead of going to a movie.
7. Comparison Shop. Pick out three different stores and compare the cost of the item to find out the best price.



Online Resources

- **The Mint: It Makes Perfect Cents:** www.themint.org
- **Teen Consumer Scrapbook:** www.atg.wa.gov/teenconsumer
- **Practical Money Skills for Life** www.practicalmoneyskills.com
- **Choose to Save:** www.choosetosave.org

- **Credit Unions Rock:** www.creditunionsrock.com
- **Financial Fitness For Life:** www.fffl.ncee.net
- **Teens Financial Network:** www.cusucceed.net/resources.php
- **Don't Buy It: Get Media Smart** www.pbskids.org/dontbuyit
- **Financial Literacy for Teens** www.extension.umn.edu/family/youth-and-money



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