A PRIMER ON FINANCIAL ASSETS

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

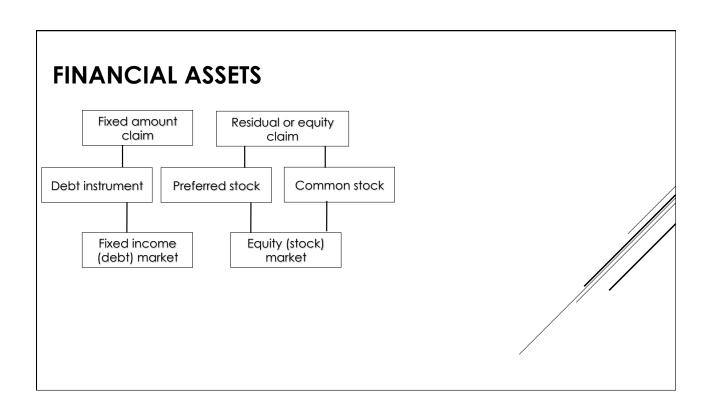
- ▶ What is a financial asset?
- ▶ How is it different than a real asset?
- ► What are important features of broad classes of financial assets?

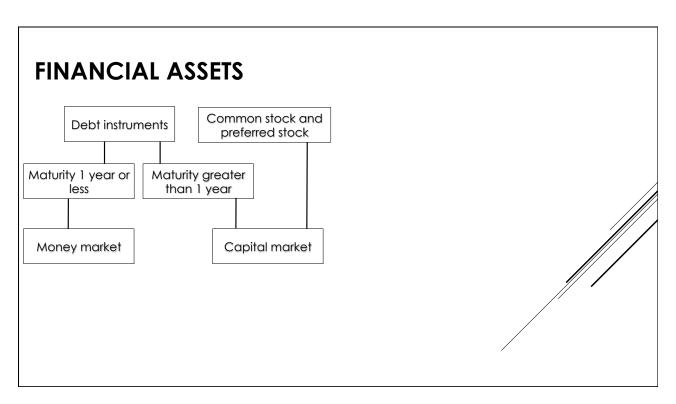
FINANCIAL ASSETS VS. REAL ASSETS

- ▶ Financial assets are claims to future cash flows.
- ► Real assets are what produce goods and services in the economy: land, building, machinery etc.

FINANCIAL ASSETS

- ▶ A bond issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury
- ► A bond issued by Apple
- ▶ A bond issued by the state of California
- ▶ A bond issued by the government of Greece
- ► A home mortgage loan
- ▶ Common stock issued by Microsoft
- ► Common stock issued by Honda Motor Company





CLASSES OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

▶ Fixed income or debt instruments

- ► Promise to pay a pre-determined stream of cash flows in the future
- ► Money market: Short-term (less than one year), low-risk debt instruments, typically very liquid
- ▶ Debt (Bond) market: Longer-term debt instruments, less liquid

► Equity instruments

- ▶ Residual claim
- ▶ Represents ownership shares of a corporation

► Derivative securities

► Contracts that derive their value from the underlying financial assets

ROAD MAP

- ▶ Fixed income securities: Money market instruments
- ▶ Fixed income securities: Long-term debt instruments
- ► Equity securities
- ▶ Derivative securities
- ▶ Traditional vs. alternative asset classes

