

 **BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET**

Paying for a pet

Having a pet can be a lot of fun, but it is a big responsibility and can cost a lot of money. Careful budgeting and planning can help you make sure you have enough money and time to commit to taking care of your pet.

Instructions

- 1 Review the scenario.
- 2 Read the "Owning and caring for a pet" handout.
- 3 Use the information in the scenario and handout to complete the "Choosing a pet" table.
- 4 Answer the reflection questions.

A pet ownership scenario

Caleb has always wanted a pet. Finally, his mom gave him permission to get one of the pets listed on the "Choosing a pet" table. But she told him that he has to pay all the costs for the first year. He'll also be the one taking care of the pet, so he has to balance that new responsibility with his homework, after-school activities, and household chores. Caleb got a job helping his neighbor so that he could make money to pay for his pet. He makes \$20 a week. He's already saved \$500 from his job and money he received from gifts. Now he needs your help to research how much each pet costs and figure out if he can afford any of these pets now or if he needs to save more money.



Choosing a pet

To calculate the total cost for the first year for each pet, add the cost to get the pet and the yearly care cost. Enter the result in the first column and answer the rest of the questions in the table.

Pet	Total cost for first year (Cost to get the pet + yearly care cost)	Can Caleb afford this now?	Do you think the amount of care needed is low, medium, or high?	Is this a good pet for Caleb?
Fish	\$	Yes No		Yes No
Hamster	\$	Yes No		Yes No
Parakeet	\$	Yes No		Yes No
Cat	\$	Yes No		Yes No
Dog (medium size)	\$	Yes No		Yes No

Reflection questions

1. Based on the time he has available, which pet do you think Caleb should pick?
2. Could Caleb buy this pet right away, or does he need to save more money?

If he needs to save, how long will it take him to save enough money to pay for the first year of owning this pet?

3. What are some of the benefits of owning the pet you chose for Caleb?

4. How could Caleb plan to take care of all of that pet's needs?

5. Were you surprised by how much each pet costs over a year? Why or why not?