

Stock Market

Purpose

Students will use the stock market listings to add and subtract decimals and verify the reasonableness of the results.

Materials

For the teacher: overhead projector, overhead markers, enlarged section of the newspaper financial page made into an overhead transparency
For each pair of students: newspaper financial page, paper, pencil, copies of Black Line Master (BLM) *Watching the Stock Market*

Activity

A. Introduction

1. Discuss with students what they know about the stock market.
2. Hand out a copy of a newspaper financial page to each pair of students and give them some time to look at the page together to see what they can observe.
3. Read together the “How to Read the Market” section of the page.
4. Point out that the columns they will be working with are the ones labeled “Last” and “Change.”
5. Pick a specific stock and ask: “What was the last price for one share of [insert stock name]. What was its change for the day? How much could one share of [insert stock name] have been purchased for yesterday?” Ask three or four similar questions.
6. Have students help you pick five stocks. List these stocks along with their last price on the overhead. Ask: “What would be the total cost of one share of each of these five stocks? Figure the change from the previous day for each stock. What would I have paid for a share of each of these five stocks yesterday?”

B. Partner Activity

1. Have each student work with a partner to complete the BLM *Watching the Stock Market*.
2. Collect completed BLMs to assess students’ abilities to add and subtract decimals and to verify reasonableness of results.

EXTENDING THE ACTIVITY



Give each student a specific amount of money. Have students pick four or five stocks to purchase and keep track of for a period of two weeks.

INCORPORATING TECHNOLOGY




Use one of the search engine pages (e.g., www.excite.com or www.yahoo.com) to look up stock prices. These pages give information about the last five days activity, whether it is a good buy, etc.


Standards Link
5.2.7

Questions for Review

Basic Concepts and Processes

As students are working on the BLM, ask the following questions:

 Show me how you figured the change in one of your stocks.

 How did you decide where to place the decimal point in the answer?

Name: _____

Watching the Stock Market

Choose two companies and use the newspaper financial page to answer the following questions:

First company: _____

What is the last price of one share of this stock? _____

What is the change from the previous day? _____

What did one share of this stock cost yesterday? _____
Show your work.

Second company: _____

What is the last price of one share of this stock? _____

What is the change from the previous day? _____

What did one share of this stock cost yesterday? _____
Show your work.



Complete the following chart by choosing five more stocks to record.

Stock	Last	Change	Previous Cost
Totals			

Watching the Stock Market

Teacher Directions

Distribute one copy of the BLM *Watching the Stock Market* to each student. Have students work in pairs using a newspaper financial page to answer the questions on the BLM.

Answer Key

Answers will vary.