

Case Study Summary

Description: In this Case Study, students will discover bank options available to minors and the three types of institutions that offer checking accounts. They will also compare various checking account options in terms of perks and fees and decide which option is best in a given scenario.

Internet Usage: Optional

Spreadsheet Skills: None

Alignment to Jump\$tart National Standards:

Spending

- 3b: Analyze the cost and features of three competing products or services
- 9b: Develop a system for keeping track of spending, saving, and investing

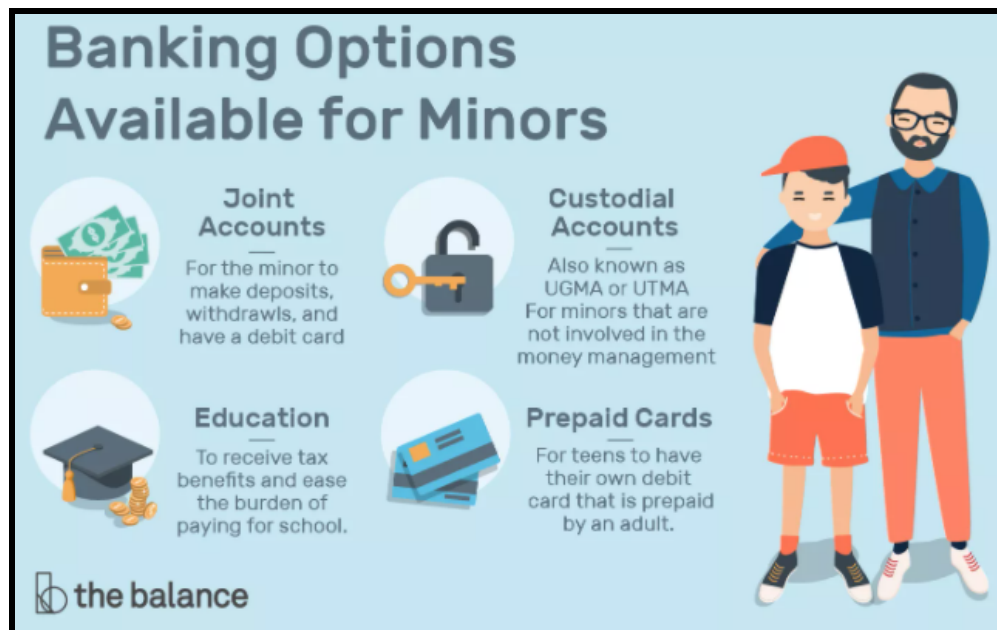
Saving

- 3b: Compare and contrast the features of mobile payment accounts, cryptocurrency accounts, and checking/savings accounts

Case Study: Bank On This

Sixteen-year-old Janet has earned money the last few years by babysitting and shoveling snow for neighbors, who pay her in cash which she mostly spends on clothes and snacks. This summer she is applying for her first formal job, and because she'll be paid by check or direct deposit, her parents are allowing her to open a checking account. Janet is excited, until she does some quick Googling and finds out she can't legally open an account until she's 18. She finds these other options:

Exhibit 1:



Answer This:

1. Which of these four banking options is probably best for Janet? Why?
2. Now that Janet knows her parents will need to be somewhat involved in her bank account, what questions or concerns should she raise with them before they open an account?

Janet feels like it would be boring to just open an account at the same local bank her parents use, so she heads to her friend Tamir's lunch table the next day at school to ask for his advice. Janet says:

"Tamir, once I get a summer job, I basically just need a place to cash my paycheck every two weeks. I'll probably take out most of the money immediately afterward so I have cash for snacks and other stuff like that. Though, I'm excited to have a debit card so I can shop online, too. What should I do? And do you have any clue if I can keep this same bank account once I go off to college? Or do I need to look for something new?"

Answer This:

- 3. What features should Tamir tell Janet to look for when choosing her new checking account?

- 4. Is there any other advice Tamir should offer based on details Janet has shared so far?

- 5. Would most standard bank accounts work for Janet based on her banking needs? Why or why not?

Tamir tells Janet she has 3 broad options to choose from: a traditional bank, a credit union, or an online-only bank. Lunch is almost over, so he suggests that Janet research those options to figure out the difference, even though he’s confident that any of the 3 would work for her.

Answer This:

- 6. Help Janet conduct an internet search and record at least two characteristics of each option.

Traditional bank	Credit union	Online-only bank

Exhibit 2

	Tinker Bank (traditional bank)	Evers Credit Union (online credit union)	Chance Bank (online-only bank)
Monthly Service Fee	\$12	\$0	\$0
Monthly Fee Waiver	Average daily balance of \$500 for teen account	N/A	N/A
Minimum to Open Account	\$0	\$0	\$0
Out of network ATM Fee	\$2.50	Up to \$20/mo rebate	None
Interest rate	0.00%	0.25%	0.10%
Accepts cash deposits	Yes	Yes	No
ATM Locations	16,000	80,000	43,000
Overdraft fees	\$34, max 3 per day	\$25, unlimited fees per day	\$25, max 1 per day

Answer This:

10. Are any of the three options a **bad** choice for Janet? Explain your answer.

11. Janet immediately notices the difference in overdraft fees.
- Briefly explain to her how overdraft protection works.

b. How worried should Janet be about overdraft fees? Explain your answer.

12. How much should Janet prioritize interest rates when making her decision of where to open the account?

Janet goes home to sleep on her decision. She thinks back on all of her conversations with Tamir and tries to predict how she'll use her account this summer once she has a part-time job. She also considers that she'll need to convince her parents if she goes with any option other than their local Tinker Bank: Is it worth the hassle? Janet drifts off to sleep but wakes the next morning, confident in her choice.

Answer This:

13. Where should Janet open her checking account? Explain why.