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Your Tax Dollar in Action [RETIRED]

Virtual Adaptation of [MOVE: Your Tax Dollar in Action](#)

Directions: How are your federal tax dollars spent? Your task is to complete the chart below showing how each individual federal tax dollar was spent in 2022 across different spending categories.

- **Step #1:** The cents listed in numerical order below show how \$1 of federal tax money is spent. Match the correct TAX CATEGORY with the correct cent, thereby putting federal tax spending categories in order from greatest to least.
 - *Pro Tip:* This is a drag & drop activity. Simply click on the box and drag it to the correct location of the table.
- **Step #2:** Drag and drop the correct DESCRIPTION to each TAX CATEGORY.
- **Step #3:** Drag and drop two well-known FEDERAL PROGRAMS that are funded under each category (*hint:* one category will only have one federal program).
- **Step #4:** Answer the reflection questions based on your completed chart.

27.1¢	17.8¢	12.9¢	12.7¢	8.4¢	5.4¢	4.5¢

3.5¢	3.0¢	2.5¢	1.0¢	0.7¢	0.7¢	

Education	Energy & Environment	Food & Agriculture	Government	Health	Housing & Community	Interest on Debt
International Affairs	Military	Science	Transportation	Unemployment & Labor	Veterans' Benefits	

National defense, nuclear weapons activities, war costs, and international security assistance.	Health care programs and services, and occupational and consumer health & safety.	Income security programs, federal employee retirement and disability, and job training.	Health care, housing, education and income security for veterans.	Diplomatic, development, and humanitarian activities abroad.	Housing assistance and credit, community development, disaster relief, and services supporting social needs.	Elementary, secondary, higher and vocational education.
Development and support of air, water, ground, and other transportation.	Natural resources and environment, conservation, and supply and use of energy.	Annual interest paid on the national debt, net of interest income received by assets the federal government owns.	Law enforcement and the justice system, commerce, overhead costs of the federal government, and undistributed offsetting receipts.	Agriculture and nutritional assistance programs.	General science research and space flight research and activities.	

Army National Guard	Congressional Budget Office	Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Grants to states for Medicaid	Head Start
Interest on federal debt	Low Income Home Energy Assistance	NASA	National Institutes of Health	National School Lunch Program	National Science Foundation	Peace Corps
Pell Grants	Rural Clean Water Program	SNAP (food stamps)	Special Education	State Department	Training & Employment Services	Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
Federal Aviation Administration	VA hospitals	Veterans Employment & Training	Weapons acquisition			

Reflection Questions

Directions: Use your completed table/chart to answer the reflection questions.

1. What, if anything, surprises you about how the federal government spends taxpayer dollars?

2. If you were in charge of allocating tax dollars, are there spending categories you would prioritize more or less than they currently are? Why?

3. You might notice that Social Security and Medicare are not listed in any of these categories. Why?

4. Which, if any, of these programs have you heard about recently or frequently in the news? In what context are people talking about them?