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| About this Lesson |
| In this lesson, students will learn how to read and interpret a credit report and, in the process, they will develop an understanding of how their spending and use of credit/debt, affects their credit history. |

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| **Grade Level** | **Course(s)/subject(s)** | **Learning Goal(s)** | **Suggested****Timing** |
| 9–12 | Introduction to Business (BBI1O/BBI2O)Exploring Family Studies (HIF1O/2O)Personal Life Management (HIP40) | At the end of this lesson, students will:* be able to read and interpret a personal credit report and understand a credit score
* describe the impact of credit history and credit reports on their future borrowing capabilities
 | 75 minutes |

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| Curriculum Links |
| Business Studies, grades 9 and 10 (2006)Finance * Describe the process of establishing a credit rating and applying for and obtaining credit.

Social Sciences and Humanities, grades 9 to 12 (2013)Communication and living A4.2 Use terms relating to individual and family needs and resources correctly (e.g., abstract thinking, identity development, support, boundaries, empathy, division of labour needs, wants, rights, resources, budget, credit card, line of credit).Daily living skills C2.3 Describe and demonstrate financial strategies and the financial literacy skills necessary to manage financial resources to meet personal and family financial goals. |

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| Curriculum Links (cont’d.) |
| Social Sciences and Humanities, grades 9 to 12 (2013)Daily living skills C2.2 Demonstrate the use of effective money management strategies. C2.4 Demonstrate the use of strategies for effectively managing finances and planning next steps. C2.5 Explain the advantages and disadvantages of buying on credit. |

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| Inquiry Questions |
| Do your financial decisions have consequences? How does your behaviour and attitude towards money translate into a credit score? How and why is that score used?Big Idea: The misuse of credit or debt impacts your opportunities in life. |

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| Materials List |
| * The Credit Report – Your Financial Responsibility Report Card (Appendix A)
* Analyzing a Credit Report (Appendix B)
* Computer, data projector and Internet access
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| **Timing**(Mins.) | **Lesson Sequence** | **Assessment for and as Learning Opportunities** (self/peer/teacher) |
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| MINDS ON |
| 5 minutes | Teacher PromptFinancial decisions we make (in our youth) have consequences for your financial health. The following story illustrates the impact past financial decisions can have on your borrowing.**Suggestion:** Test for understanding by having the students answer questions from the illustration before research. Revisit the questions after you have finished the lesson. | Assessment FOR Learning: Discussion |

| **Timing**(Mins.) | **Lesson Sequence** | **Assessment for and as Learning Opportunities** (self/peer/teacher) |
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| MINDS ON (cont’d.) |
|  | Context for LearningUse the scenario below (or create a similar one) to provide students with a context for learning.Chloe is a 22-year-old RN, who has been working for a year at a local hospital. She needs a new car and has saved a down payment for one and has test driven many vehicles in her price range. When she sees an ad offering one of those cars for 0% interest, she hurries down to the dealership to buy the car. While arranging financing, the dealer asks her permission to check her credit rating. The salesperson returns with the financing paperwork and she is startled to find out that her loan rate was 5%, not 0% as advertised. When she inquired about the rate change, she was told that, based on her credit rating score, this was the best rate they could give her and although her score was 700, it was only according to the FICO Score – fair.For Discussion: 1. What is a credit report?
2. Why would the dealership want to find out her credit score?
3. What does FICO stand for?
4. What may be a reason she does not get the preferred rate?
 | Assessment FOR Learning: Discussion |
| ACTION |
| 5 minutes | WHOLE CLASS**The purpose of the credit score**A credit score helps lenders to assess an individual’s risk of not repaying a loan. It is *not*to assess borrowers’ knowledge of consumer credit, their attitude toward consumer credit, their amount of consumer debt or the financial resources they have to repay a loan. [http://www.investopedia.com/financial-edge/0311/Do-You-Understand-Your-](http://www.investopedia.com/financial-edge/0311/Do-You-Understand-Your-Credit-Score.aspx) [Credit-Score.aspx](http://www.investopedia.com/financial-edge/0311/Do-You-Understand-Your-Credit-Score.aspx) |  |

| **Timing**(Mins.) | **Lesson Sequence** | **Assessment for and as Learning Opportunities** (self/peer/teacher) |
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| ACTION (cont’d.) |
| 10 minutes | How to determine the credit scoreYour credit score is a numerical representation of your credit health at a particular point in time. It represents the risk you present compared to other lenders. There are many different ways to work out your score, which falls between 300 and 900 and is based on several factors. Just remember, the higher the score the better.Watch the following video and note what are the factors in determining your score.<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWxjWX4rLZU> |  |
|  | ***Teacher Prompt: For Discussion***The five components that make up credit score:* Payment History 35%
	+ Late payments have an impact
	+ Most young adults do not understand that your cellphone account is included along with credit cards, leases, mortgage, etc.
* Available Credit/Amounts Owe/Utilization 30%
	+ How close you are to your limit
* History 15%
	+ The longer you have an account (like a credit card or line of credit), and keep up the good behaviour — i.e. no late payments — the better your rating will be
* Credit Product Type 10%
	+ Different types of credit carry different risk – secured loans (mortgage) have less risk than unsecured loans (credit card)
* Inquiry 10%
 | Assessment FOR Learning: Discussion |

| **Timing**(Mins.) | **Lesson Sequence** | **Assessment for and as Learning Opportunities** (self/peer/teacher) |
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| ACTION (cont’d.) |
|  | <https://www.gffg.com/SharedContent/documents/PDFs/CreditReportScore_e.pdf> |  |
| 15 minutes | INDIVIDUALFinancial Report CardResearch information about credit report and credit score, visit: <https://www.getsmarteraboutmoney.ca/plan-manage/planning-basics/managing-debt/check-your-credit-report/>* Review terms.
* Discuss what determines the rate you get for a loan or credit card.

**Distribute:** The Credit Report – Your Financial Responsibility Report Card (Appendix A) | Assessment FOR Learning: Discussion |
| 15 minutes | INDIVIDUALCredit IQDirect students to the online quiz, Credit IQ at <https://www.inspirefinanciallearning.ca/index.php/tools-videos/interactive-tools/credit-iq-quiz/>* Play the quiz.
* Discuss any misconceptions brought about by the quiz.
 | Assessment FOR Learning: Discussion |

| **Timing**(Mins.) | **Lesson Sequence** | **Assessment for and as Learning Opportunities** (self/peer/teacher) |
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| ACTION (cont’d.) |
| 15 minutes | INDIVIDUALWorksheet* Distribute Analyzing a Credit Report (Appendix B).
* Take up questions.

If you have not previously done this activity, you may wish to do all, otherwise only focus on credit IQ.  |  |
| CONSOLIDATION/DEBRIEF |
| 5 minutes | Revisit the storyWhat could account for Chloe’s poorer than anticipated credit rating?* Various answers based on research
 | Assessment FOR Learning: Discussion |
|  | Context for Learning – RevisitedChloe signed her paperwork for the car (it was still within her budget) and did some research on what may have caused her credit rating to be only “fair.” She thought about the times she had been late with her credit card payment and she had forgot twice to pay her monthly cellphone bill. She had assumed that if she just caught up and paid the interest, there would be no problem. She now knows she was wrong and will take steps to improve her score. What suggestions would you give her? |  |
| 5 minutes | INDIVIDUALExit Cards* List three things you learned about credit scores and report.
* List two ways to improve your credit score.

List one concept you think all Canadians should understand about their credit score and report. Explain your answer.OR Key InsightIf you were to share a key insight from today’s lesson with a friend, what would you say? Write or illustrate what you’d share. | Assessment AS Learning: Exit Card |

| **Timing**(Mins.) | **Lesson Sequence** | **Assessment for and as Learning Opportunities** (self/peer/teacher) |
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| CONSOLIDATION/DEBRIEF (cont’d.) |
|  | **Discussion**Try to recall from memory three points from today’s lesson. Pick the one that peaked your interest the most and share why.**Dig Deeper**Read the following booklet put out by the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada:<https://www.gffg.com/SharedContent/documents/PDFs/CreditReportScore_e.pdf>Bring your questions to class tomorrow. |  |

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| The Credit Report – Your Financial Responsibility Report Card |
| (Adapted with permission from Toronto District School Board)Did you know? When you are granted credit from a lending institution such as a bank or credit card company, a credit file/report is kept on you. Your credit file or report is like an ongoing financial responsibility report card of your actions. A credit report/file keeps track of your financial responsibility from the number of missed payments on a loan to the number of loans you have received. So it is important to know that how/when you pay your account(s) will affect your financial future. Your credit reports track your financial responsibility skills from today to the last six years.Every month creditors send information about each person's account to the credit bureaus. A credit bureau is a company that collects and gathers individual consumer credit information and then sells the information, in an organized form, back to the credit grantors. In most provinces, the credit bureaus are regulated by the consumer ministries. The two credit bureaus in Canada are Equifax and TransUnion. The information they compile on an individual’s debt is called a credit file or credit report. Credit grantors (e.g., banks or credit card companies) can access your credit files online and see how much, and to whom you owe, and whether you have made payments on time or late payments. Credit grantors can then use this information to determine whether or not they will approve a credit application.Only members of the credit bureau like major creditors including banks or those you give permission to can access your credit files. But did you know that landlords or potential employers may also have access to your credit file? Suppose you want to rent an apartment, the landlord (with your permission) can run a credit check on you. If you have a bad credit report because you pay your bill late, then your application to rent that cool apartment will probably be rejected. So it is essential that you know and understand the impact of your credit track record and pay your bills on time resulting in a good credit report.The manner that this information is presented may differ among each credit bureau, but the information is essentially the same. Your credit files also contain basic information such as name, address, telephone number, birth date, social insurance number and employment history.Consumers can obtain a free copy of their credit file by providing appropriate identifications and request forms to the Canadian credit bureaus:Equifax – [www.equifax.ca](http://www.equifax.ca)TransUnion – [www.transunion.ca](http://www.transunion.ca) |

**APPENDIX A**

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| The Credit Report – Your Financial Responsibility Report Card (cont’d.) |
| 1. List the two main credit bureaus in Canada.
2. What information can you find in a credit file?
3. Who regulates the credit bureaus?
4. Who can view a consumer’s credit file?
5. What does your credit file tell us about you?

Features and information on a credit fileCredit ratings: indicate how you have paid a debt, on time or late. Each debt is assigned a credit rating on a scale from 0 to 9. Credit ratings appear on your credit file for six years from the date reported.Balance: the amount you owe on a debt at the time the creditor reported to your credit file.Inquiries: are the names and telephone numbers of all the creditors who have viewed your credit file over the last four years.Registered lien: a claim the creditor has registered against property you have listed as collateral.A lien enables a creditor to repossess the property if the debtor does not pay as agreed.An example is a lien registered against a car by the creditor who granted the car loan.Judgments: court orders obtained by a creditor when a debtor does not pay as agreed. |

**APPENDIX A**

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| Analyzing a Credit Report |
| EQUIFAXCONSUMER RELATIONSP.O.BOX 190 STATION JEAN TALON MONTREAL QUEBEC H1S 2Z2JANE DOE10 PLEASANT ST.TORONTO ONTARIO M2N 1A2CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATIONNOT TO BE USED FOR CREDIT PURPOSESRE: EQUIFAX UNIQUE NUMBER: 3140123054Dear JANE DOE,Further to your request, a disclosure of your personal credit file as of 03/27/01 follows:PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION:The following personal identification information is currently showing on your credit file.DATE FILE OPENED: 07/04/92NAME: Doe, JaneCURRENT ADDRESS: 10 PLEASANT ST. TORONTO,ONDATE REPORTED: 12/96PREVIOUS ADDRESS: 2 AVENUE ST,TORONTO,ONDATE REPORTED: 12/93PRIOR ADDRESS: 3 DU BOULEVARD,MONTREAL,PQDATE REPORTED: 07/92BIRTH DATE/AGE: 10/05/1963/33SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER: 123-456-789OTHER REFERENCE NAMES: CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: EDITOR PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT: TRANSLATOR PRIOR EMPLOYMENT: CHEF OTHER INCOME:SPOUSES NAME: JOHNSPOUSES EMPLOYMENT: CHEFCREDIT INQUIRIES ON YOUR FILE:Following is a list of Equifax members who have received a copy of your credit file for credit granting or other permissible purposes. Addresses are available by calling Equifax at 1-800-465-7166.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | REQUESTOR NAME | TELEPHONE |
| 03/02/00 | CANADA TRUST MTG | (416) 361-8518 |
| 02/22/00 | TD BANK | (800) 787-7065 |
| 01/16/00 | BQE NATIONALE | (450) 677-9122 |

 | The following inquiries are for your information only and are not displayed to others. They include requests from authorized parties to update their records regarding your existing account with them.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | REQUESTOR NAME | TELEPHONE |
| 03/23/00 | SOC ALCOOLS (not displayed) | (514) 873-6281 |
| 03/22/00 | CANADA TRUST MTG (not displayed) | (416) | 361-8518 |
| 02/16/00 | CMHC SCHL (not displayed) | (888) 463-6454 |
| 01/16/00 | AMERICAN EXPRESS (not displayed) | (416) | 123-4567 |

CONSUMER INTERVIEWS AND OTHER SERVICES:You contacted our office in 12/98 to request a review of your credit file.CREDIT HISTORY AND/OR BANKING INFORMATION:The following information was reported to us by organizations listed below. Information is received every 30 days from most credit grantors.GMAC last reported to us in 01/01 rating your instalment account as I1, meaning paid as agreed and up to date. The reported balance of your account was $1000. Your account number: 23456789012345. The account is in the subject's name only. Date account opened: 04/99. Credit limit or highest amount of credit advanced: $4400. DATE OF LAST ACTIVITY meaning the last payment or transaction made on this account was in 12/00. Additional comments: auto loan. Monthly payments.CANADA TRUST MC last reported to us in 01/01 rating your revolving account as R1, meaning paid as agreed and up to date. At the time the reported balance of your account was $285. Your account number: xxx...234. Date account opened: 06/99. Credit limit or highest amount of credit advanced $2000. DATE OF LAST ACTIVITY meaning the last payment or transaction made on this account was in 12/00.PREVIOUS PAYMENT STATUS:30 DAYS: 1 time (s) account previously R2 meaning one payment past duePUBLIC RECORDS AND OTHER INFORMATION:The following information was reported to your file on the date indicated.A COLLECTION was assigned in 10/96 to Commercial Credit byTransamerica Financial in the amount of $2675. Date reported paid: 07/97. Collection status: PAID. DATE OF LAST ACTIVITY was in 04/96. Collection agency reference number: 222222.A JUDGEMENT was FILED IN 01/96 in Min Govt Serv. Plaintiff and/ or case number: Chrysler Canada 4444. Defendant/other info: joint with Dossier. Amount reported: $7525. Status reported: Satisfied. Date satisfied: 09/97. |

**APPENDIX B**

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| Analyzing a Credit Report (cont’d.) |
| 1. What is Jane Doe’s current employment?
2. How old was she when her credit information file was first “opened”?
3. Which Equifax members received a copy of Jane Doe’s credit file for credit granting or other permissible purposes?
4. How can you get the addresses of these companies?
5. On the first occasion Jane Doe did not pay on a debt, a collection agency was assigned to collect money from her. What was the name of the collection agency assigned to Jane Doe?
6. As of today, what is the status of this collection?
7. How much did Jane Doe owe Chrysler Canada when the case went to court?
8. Who made Jane Doe pay the loan off? What do you think this did to her credit rating?
9. When was this credit report generated? How many years have passed since the incident with Chrysler and when this particular credit report was generated?
10. What advice do you have for Jane Doe to keep her in “good” credit standing?
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**APPENDIX B**

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| Analyzing a Credit Report (cont’d.) |
| Translating the credit codeYour guide for using the common language for consumer creditAnalyzing the ranking categories and types of debt to be paidO = Open account (personal lines of credit; e.g., Royal Bank personal line of credit)R = Revolving account (credit card accounts; e.g., MasterCard, Visa)I = Instalment (loans; e.g., payments on a car loan)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Usual manner of payment | O | R | I |
| Too new to rate; approved but not used | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pays (or paid) within 30 days of billing; pays account as agreed | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Pays (or paid) in more that 30 days, but not more than 60 days, or not more than one payment past due | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Pays (or paid) in more that 60 days, but not more than 90 days, or not more than two payment past due | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Pays (or paid) in more that 90 days, but not more than 120 days, or not more than three payment past due | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Account is at least 120 days overdue but is not yet rated “9” | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Making regular payments under a consolidation order or similar arrangement through a third party | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Repossession (indicates if it is a voluntary return of merchandise by the consumer) | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Bad debt; placed for collection; skip | 9 | 9 | 9 |

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**APPENDIX B**

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| Analyzing a Credit Report (cont’d.) |
| Sample questionWhat does code I1 mean?I indicates it is loan; 1 means the account was paid as agreed.An I1 rating would indicate that you can manage your money and pay as agreed.1. What does R1 mean?
2. What does R2 mean?
3. What does 04 mean?
4. What does I8 mean?
5. What does R9 mean?
6. Which rating would you prefer R1 or R2; why?
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**APPENDIX B**