

The Stock Market Game™



Week In Review

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While much of the country has battled nasty weather this week, Wall Street is also trying to rebound from the latest round of downbeat [economic data](#). Tuesday brought news that consumer confidence fell in February to the lowest point in ten months while on Wednesday it was announced the monthly [Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller](#) index of home prices experienced an unexpected slip in December. Global stocks rose slightly after Fed [Chairman Bernanke](#) reaffirmed his commitment to keep U.S. interest rates at exceptionally low levels for an extended period or time, but the rally didn't last long after weak U.S. [jobless](#) and manufacturing data drove fears that the global economic recovery continues to be on shaky ground. However, stocks edged higher as the [Commerce Department](#) reported Friday morning that the economy grew at a 5.9 percent annual rate, better than the 5.7 percent pace estimated last month, sending the stock markets into positive territory. Treasury bond prices were flat for the week.

For those of you just joining The Stock Market Game program, your students should expect in the short term, many of the stocks they buy may continue to have downside risk, which is why it's important you stress research and the long-term benefits of saving and investing and why we will be highlighting [America Saves Week](#). Launched in 2001, in Cleveland, Ohio, *America Saves* is an expanded effort aimed at reaching institutions and individuals to increase awareness of the need to save money, reduce debt and build wealth, all crucial tasks in our current economy and especially important for students to be exposed to at an early age. For more information about *America Saves Week*, please be sure to check out their website, www.americasavesweek.org. Under the "For Individuals" section, you can sign up to receive monthly saving messages, test your savings knowledge, and take action to save more effectively.

In terms of money management, you may also be interested in www.mint.com. The site enables you to track your checking, savings, 529 plans, mortgage, loans, credit cards, etc., all on one site (and it's free!).

Back to your Stock Market Game students – staying abreast of overall trends in our global economy and researching different industries and sectors is clearly essential in creating a top performing portfolio. It's not too early to introduce them to the concept of diversification. To assist your students in diversifying their portfolios, be sure to take a look the Sector/Industry Research Worksheet located in the [Teacher Support Center](#). It encourages students to move beyond consumer companies that comprise the majority of portfolios. The worksheet is accessible in the Teachers Guide under the Getting Started Section. Click on #6, "Where Do I Begin My Research" and the worksheet is located near the bottom of the page.

Have a great week!