

# The Stock Market Game™



## Week In Review

April 23, 2010

Written By: Elizabeth Reidel, SIFMA Foundation for Investor Education

**Sky rockets in flight...** The Hubble telescope marked its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Friday with some [cool pics](#) from outer space. Speaking of high in the sky, the Dow marked its eighth straight winning week in a row, closing at 11,204, fueled by positive earnings reports with the energy, consumer discretionary and industrials leading the way. While the overall corporate earnings reports are strong, some sectors such as technology have shown mixed results, tempering the gains during the week. The financial reform bill is scheduled for a vote on Monday and lawmakers will be scrambling over the weekend to find common ground.

In other financial news, [new home sales](#) experienced their biggest jump in five decades to give strength to the recovery. Similarly good news for the economic recovery was the report that orders for durable goods, excluding transportation, showed the biggest gains since December 2007. In bonds, the generally excellent earnings reports have given investors confidence in corporate bonds particularly as an alternative to government debt. Bond spreads have recovered to the levels they were at the start of the credit crisis.

As the school year winds down along with your Stock Market Game session, now is the time to start thinking about your summer plans. For those new to the program, we encourage you to attend the New York Stock Exchange [\(NYSE\) Teacher Workshop](#), which this year is being offered in partnership with the SEC. The NYSE is a great supporter of the SMG program and provides a valuable professional development experience. In the past, participants have had an opportunity to visit with a specialist on the NYSE's trading floor, meet with key NYSE staff members, and discuss with peers how to best integrate an understanding of the securities industry into their daily lessons. For those who have attended the NYSE Teacher Workshop before, NYSE and the SEC are also holding a graduate program this year. You can learn all about these valuable professional development experiences [here](#).

In non-financial news, yesterday was earth day and while the news is non-financial we still have a great way for you to tie it to SMG. In the [Teacher Support Center](#) in the Projects section is a project called "Going Green" which uses Dr. Seuss' story *The Lorax* which helps students understand the importance of balancing economic and environmental interests. Once you've clicked on Projects in the In the Classroom section of the Teacher Support Center choose "Overarching Projects" in the "Unit" dropdown at the top of the page. Make sure the grade level is set at "Elementary" and then click the "Next" button. The project is designed for elementary school students but can be easily adapted to higher grades.