

How Taxes Improve a City

Student Activity: Taxes

State and city taxes pay for many things we enjoy. Imagine how much it costs to build and maintain a library or park. Oklahoma City proved just how much difference a penny can make with its MAPS program. MAPS, which stands for Metropolitan Area Projects, began in 1993 when voters approved a temporary one-cent sales tax, to be collected through July 1999. During this period, over \$309 million was collected, which was invested and earned \$54 million in interest. These funds were used for MAPS construction projects. Since then, additional MAPS programs have been voter-approved to fund additional projects to improve Oklahoma City.

Objective

Discover how taxes can improve a city.

Activity

Think about the last time you were in the downtown/Bricktown area of Oklahoma City. In the table below, list some of the things you saw or did.

Downtown/Bricktown Attractions	Funded by MAPS?

Now, let us see if these attractions were built with MAPS pennies.

1. Go to **tinyurl.com/OKCMAPS** and review the list of projects MAPS 1 and MAPS 3 built. *(Some MAPS 3 projects are still underway.)*
2. Enter “yes” or “no” in the chart to indicate if the attraction you listed was funded by MAPS.
3. What did MAPS 2 fund?
(Hint: It is called MAPS for Kids.)

Reflection:

1. Now that you can enjoy what the extra MAPS tax built, do you think the MAPS programs were worthwhile?
2. An extra penny sales tax on every dollar spent can add up on a purchase. Do you think it was a difficult decision for taxpayers to vote “yes” on the MAPS projects, knowing they would pay more taxes on all of their purchases for a number of years?

