

ACTIVITY 13.1

Accounting Firm

You run a top accounting firm that is in need of additional workers. Tax season is rapidly approaching and your staff simply cannot handle the volume of work that your company has taken on in the last three months. Any workers you hire must be highly proficient at solving basic mathematical problems. You are looking for workers who can solve problems quickly and accurately. The more problems they can solve, the more money they can potentially earn for your firm.

Each worker will be required to take your Basic Math Skills Test as a prerequisite to being hired. The three of you, along with the three employer representatives from the construction company, will conduct, monitor, and score the tests of each worker. All tests will be conducted simultaneously. The teacher will read test instructions (Activity 13.4) to the workers prior to beginning the testing process.

Upon completion, you will grade each test and write the score on the worker's résumé (Activity 13.3).

Each worker will bring a résumé for your review as part of his or her job search.

You are free to hire as many workers as you want, at any wage you dictate, as long as that wage is not below \$8. All wages must be in \$1 increments.

Workers who have good math skills are more productive. *Based on experience, you know your firm earns \$2 for each point on the Basic Math Skills Test found on worker résumés.*

Example: If a potential worker has a score of 7 on her resume, she would earn your company \$14 ($7 \text{ [points]} \times \$2 = \$14$). If you were to pay this worker a wage of \$8, your firm would make a profit of \$6 ($\$14 \text{ [earnings]} - \$8 \text{ [wage]} = \$6 \text{ [profit]}$). If you were to pay that same worker \$12, your firm would make only \$2 ($\$14 \text{ [earnings]} - \$12 \text{ [wage]} = \$2 \text{ [profit]}$).

(Note: The workers and other companies DO NOT know how much your firm earns. This information does not need to be shared with anyone outside of your group.)