

In the Senate Chamber

Candy Desk

Learn about the Candy Desk inside of the Senate Chamber. Then use the worksheet for a math and research activity to stock the candy desk with your favorite candy.

Words to Know

Senate: The chamber of Congress comprised of 100 lawmakers - two from each of the 50 states. Members of the Senate serve 6 year terms.

Senate Chamber: The room in the U.S. Capitol where the Senate meets.

Senate Session: The period during which Congress assembles and carries on its regular business.

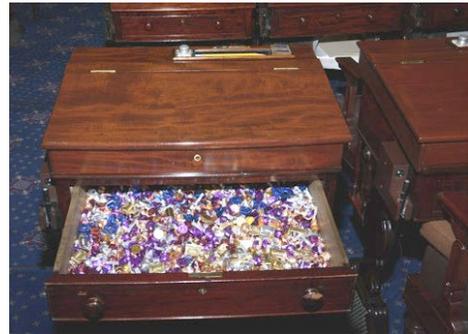
Cost Per Unit: The total cost divided by the number of items, or units, something holds.

Senate Sweet Tooth

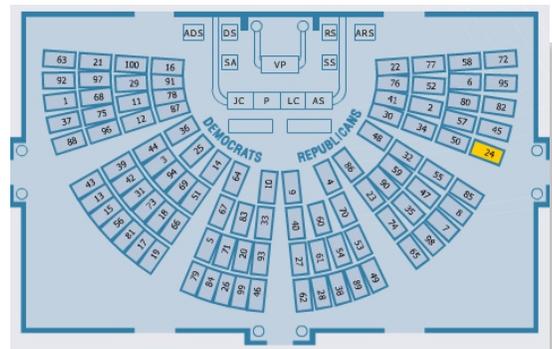
There are 100 historic desks inside of the senate chamber in the United States Capitol. But one desk is particularly special because it helps provide sweets for the Senators! This special desk is called The Candy Desk.

Food is normally not allowed inside of the Senate Chamber so that the Senators can focus on their work and help keep the historic chamber clean. However, in 1965 Senator George Murphy of California started keeping candy in his desk as a snack for him and his fellow Senators. Senator Murphy's desk was right next to one of the main doors, so other Senators would frequently stop by for a piece of candy! Since Murphy left the Senate, Senators seated in his former spot have continued to stock the desk with candy. They will often fill it with candy from companies in their home states. Imagine having that responsibility!

Fact: Along with sneaking the occasional piece of candy, Senators are allowed to drink milk on the Senate Chamber floor.



U.S. Senate / Public domain



United States Senate / Public domain

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Stock the Candy Desk

What is your favorite kind of candy?

Look up how much one bag of that candy costs at the grocery store and record your answer.

\$ _____
Cost of one bag of candy

How many pieces of candy are in one bag? Look at the nutritional information. How many pieces of candy are in one serving size? How many servings in the bag? Then multiply to find the total number of pieces!

_____ X _____ = _____
Pieces of candy in one serving size Number of servings per bag Total pieces of candy in bag

What is the cost per piece of candy? Divide the cost of the bag by the number of pieces inside. That is your cost per piece of candy, also known as your cost per unit.

_____ ÷ _____ = _____
Cost of one bag of candy Total pieces of candy in bag Cost per unit (Cost per piece of candy)

How much candy do you need to stock the candy desk for one year?

- There are two Senators for each state which means there are 100 senators!
- The Senators are not in the Chamber every day of the year. They have time to go back to their home states, weekends off, and time off for other reasons. They're in session for about 140 days each year.
- Let's assume that each Senator has only one piece of candy per day.

_____ X _____ = _____
Number of Senators Days in session (per year) Total pieces of candy (per year)

Wow, that's a lot of candy, Senator! How much will it cost to stock the candy desk for one year?

_____ X _____ = _____
Total pieces of candy (per year) Cost per unit Total Cost of Stocking the Candy Desk

Great job! I'm sure the whole Senate appreciates your work!

Share your work online. Tag us @EMKInstitute and use the hashtags #Civicsathome

Take it a step farther: Set up a spending budget for yourself! Choose a project for something in your house. Determine your budget, which is the total amount of money you want to spend, and then make a list of the materials or products you will need. Look online to find out cost estimates of everything you want and see if it adds up to fit your budget. Be sure to shop around for the best price!

Project Name _____

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D
Item (material or product) needed	Cost per item	Number of items needed	Total Cost of Item = Column B X Column C
Total Budget			\$
(Total Budget = Everything in Column D added up)			

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