

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

ACTIVITY

Tax Exploration

What + Why: Take a closer look at real-world documents to discover how taxes quietly shape everyday life.

Every day, people pay different kinds of taxes—often without realizing it—and those taxes support the services and systems communities rely on. Looking at real tax documents helps make these systems visible by showing how different taxes appear in everyday life. Because tax rates and tax types vary by location, people may experience the same tax differently depending on where they live.

Supporting Materials:

Pay Stub (Case Study - Brianna Parker)

Tax Exploration Documents

- Vehicle Tax Statement
- Sales Tax Receipt
- Rideshare Receipt
- W-2 (Kiana Thompson)

Instructions:

1. Use the one tax type assigned to your group.
2. Examine your tax document:
 - a. Where does the tax appear on the document? (circle or highlight this information)
 - b. What is the rate of this tax?
 - c. How and when is this tax paid or withheld?

Be prepared to share during the class debrief.

Tax Exploration Documents

Personal Property Tax Statement



Evergreen City Tax Office

VEHICLE TAX STATEMENT

Taxpayer: Rafael Martinez
Mailing Address: 8844 Sycamore St.

Vehicle Information

Make/Model: Toyota Tacoma
VIN: 1NXBR12E7YZ821433
Assessed Vehicle Value: \$11,400

TAX CALCULATION

Taxable Units (Assessed Vehicle Value /100 = 114)
 County Property Tax Rate ($\$3.10 \times 114 = \$353.40$)
 Transportation Fund ($\$0.40 \times 114 = \$45.60$)

Total Vehicle Property Tax Due: \$399.00

Due Date: September 30

Sales Tax Receipt



Riverside Bistro Receipt

120 Riverfront St.
 (555)987-6543

Caesar Salad	\$12.50
Grilled Salmon	\$18.95
Iced Tea	\$2.50
Subtotal	\$33.95
Sales Tax (8.8%)	\$2.99
TOTAL	\$36.94

Signature

THANK YOU
HAVE A NICE DAY

Rideshare Receipt



Goober Trip Receipt

April 22

Start: 123 Main St., Chicago, IL

End: 456 Oak St., Chicago, IL

Trip Fare:	\$16.40
Booking Fee:	\$2.25
Chicago Ground	
Transportation Tax:	\$1.25

TOTAL \$19.90

Thank you for riding with Goober!



ABC-3455-EFG-235

W2 for Kiana Thompson

a Employee's social security number 987-65-4320		OMB No. 1545-0029		Safe, accurate, FAST! Use		 Visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov/efile .	
b Employer identification number (EIN) 00-9876543				1 Wages, tips, other compensation \$29,520.00		2 Federal income tax withheld \$2,290.00	
c Employer's name, address, and ZIP code Morning Grind Coffee Co. 100 Business Drive, Kansas City, MO 64030				3 Social security wages \$28,800.00		4 Social security tax withheld \$1,890.00	
				5 Medicare wages and tips \$29,520.00		6 Medicare tax withheld \$442.00	
				7 Social security tips		8 Allocated tips	
d Control number				9		10 Dependent care benefits	
e Employee's first name and initial Last name Suff. Kiana Thompson 123 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64030				11 Nonqualified plans		12a See instructions for box 12	
				13 Statutory employee Retirement plan Third-party sick pay ☐ ☐ ☐		12b	
				14a Other		12c 401(k) Contribution D \$915.00	
				14b Treasury Tipped Occupation Code(s)		12d Employer Health Coverage DD \$3,600.00	
				f Employee's address and ZIP code			
15 State Employer's state ID number MO 00-7654321		16 State wages, tips, etc. \$29,520.00		17 State income tax \$1,030.00		18 Local wages, tips, etc.	

Form **W-2** Wage and Tax Statement

Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service

Copy B—To Be Filed With Employee's FEDERAL Tax Return.
 This information is being furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.