



POWELL CENTER FOR  
ECONOMIC LITERACY

*Lesson Plan*

WRITTEN BY Powell Center Staff  
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## **Extra Cheese, Please**

*A Look at Productive Resources*

### **Time Required**

One class period (“Fifteen Minutes”)

### **Grade Level and Subject**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade; Children’s Literature

### **Keystone Principles**

Principle #8 – Quantity and Quality of Resources Impact Living Standards

### **Economic Concepts**

**Capital Resources** - *Goods that are produced and used to make other goods and services.*

**Human Resources** - *People who work to produce goods and services.*

**Natural Resources** - *Gifts of nature that are used to produce goods and services.*

**Productive Resources** - *The natural, human and capital resources that are used to produce goods and services.*

**Scarcity** - *The condition of not being able to have all of the goods and services that you want.*

## Overview

Nearly every child likes pizza. One of the most important ingredients in any pizza is Mozzarella cheese. Using a short picture book, *Extra Cheese, Please! Mozzarella's Journey from Cow to Pizza* by Cris Peterson with photographs by Alvis Uptis, students examine production factors involved in producing cheese. Readers are taken from a pasture, to the barn, onto a tank truck, and then through a cheese factory where they learn about the elaborate process of making cheese.

Before children can comprehend the link between living standards and the quantity and quality of resources, they need to have a clear understanding of just what is meant by the term, productive resources. This lesson will help students incorporate these terms into their working vocabulary.

## Objectives

1. Students learn about productive resources used in producing goods and services.
2. Students learn that scarcity causes producers to make choices about what to produce.
3. Students learn how mozzarella cheese is made.
4. Students sample mozzarella cheese as they read the story.
5. Students work in cooperative groups to identify natural, capital and human resources in the story.

## Materials and Handouts

- A copy of *Extra Cheese, Please! Mozzarella's Journey from Cow to Pizza* by Cris Peterson, photographs by Alvis Uptis. © 1994. Boyds Mill Press, Inc. A Highlights Company.
- One piece of low fat mozzarella string cheese—individually wrapped and found in packages of 24 in the dairy case at the supermarket—for each child who wants one.
- Handout for each student for follow-up activity.
- Master copy of handout on LCD screen or overhead projector for the teacher.

## Teaching Activity

1. Take an informal survey of how many students like pizza.
2. Students list as many ingredients as possible that can be put on pizza.
3. Students discuss how pizza is just not pizza without cheese—and mozzarella is the most popular kind of pizza cheese.
4. Teacher does a guided reading of the story while students listen actively and munch on their string cheese stick while they learn about how mozzarella makes its journey from cow to market.
5. Whole class activity to introduce the handout. Students identify the natural, capital and human resources in the process of making cheese.
6. Students work in teams to complete the handout.

## Extension Activity

Using a copy of the same handout, cooperative teams of students can read other easy picture books with examples of Productive Resources. Here are some books that will work:

1. *Apples* by Gail Gibbons
2. *How a House is Built* by Gail Gibbons
3. *Milk from Cow to Carton* by Aliko
4. *Pancakes, Pancakes!* by Eric Carle
5. *The Goat in the Rug* as told by Charles L. Blood and Martin Link

