

# the Little buffalos Savings Club

Quarterly Newsletter for Kids

## *Rube Goldberg Machines*

Have you ever played Marble Run, with its collection of shoots, ramps, and gadgets that let you create your own marble tracks to race opponents and see who wins? That game is basically a pre-made Rube Goldberg machine.

Rube Goldberg was a cartoonist who would draw extremely complicated machines to do very simple tasks, like crack an egg. Would any of his contraptions actually work? No.

The game Mouse Trap also relies on a Rube Goldberg – type machine as the main part of the game. So you don't have to go far to find one!



The internet is also full of Rube Goldberg machines. The band Ok Go has made a few music videos that revolve around giant Rube Goldberg machines. There are also a lot of videos lately of people bouncing ping pong balls through their entire house in a Rube Goldberg fashion.

It's not all just for entertainment, though. Some engineering schools actually encourage students to make them as a way to study how different parts of machines work together. There is a prize for teams who can make the most complicated machines in a given amount of space.

So if you're looking for something to do this summer, start dreaming, and start building!

## Taxes

You've probably heard an adult complain about taxes at some point. Taxes are money you pay to the government. In return, the government maintains roads, pays police and firefighters, and helps out in other ways that normal businesses or one family can't make work.

Even if you don't file a tax return like an adult, you still pay taxes. Most of the time, when you buy something at a store or online, there is a sales tax on that item. It's added at the end, so you have to be careful.



Think about that when you are shopping. The price tag doesn't list the final price; you're going to owe 5–8% in

sales tax on top of the listed price.

Thinking about taxes at the store is a good idea, but it's not the only time you should think about them. When you make money from an allowance, chores, or a lemonade stand, set some aside for "taxes."

That money you set aside shouldn't be used on things you want like toys, games, or candy, but for things you need. Maybe your bike popped a tire and you need to fix it— use your tax money to pay for it. Or donate that money to a good cause. The more you know about taxes now, the easier it will be to pay them when you're all grown up!!



### **Accumulator Certificate**

Do you have a Certificate with your Little Buffalo Savings Account?

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