

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Buying a House

### I. Median Home Price

Think about where you might want to live. Choose five cities or towns. Use <https://www.zillow.com/home-values/> to find the median home value (Zillow Home Value Index) in each city.

City/Town	Median Home Value

### II. Finding a House

Now choose three of those cities. Use <https://www.zillow.com/> to look for three different houses in each of those cities. (You are looking at houses for sale, not for rent.) Use the information listed on Zillow to find the estimated monthly payment, price per square foot, lot size, HOA fees (if there are any), and the property taxes.

City #1: \_\_\_\_\_

House #1	
Number of bedrooms:	Price of Home:
Number of bathrooms:	Estimated monthly payment:
Lot size:	HOA fees:
Price per square foot:	Property taxes:
Special Features of the House:	

House #2	
Number of bedrooms:	Price of Home:
Number of bathrooms:	Estimated monthly payment:
Lot size:	HOA fees:
Price per square foot:	Property taxes:
Special Features of the House:	

House #3	
Number of bedrooms:	Price of Home:
Number of bathrooms:	Estimated monthly payment:
Lot size:	HOA fees:
Price per square foot:	Property taxes:
Special Features of the House:	

City #2: \_\_\_\_\_

House #1	
Number of bedrooms:	Price of Home:
Number of bathrooms:	Estimated monthly payment:
Lot size:	HOA fees:
Price per square foot:	Property taxes:
Special Features of the House:	

House #2	
Number of bedrooms:	Price of Home:
Number of bathrooms:	Estimated monthly payment:
Lot size:	HOA fees:
Price per square foot:	Property taxes:
Special Features of the House:	

House #3	
Number of bedrooms:	Price of Home:
Number of bathrooms:	Estimated monthly payment:
Lot size:	HOA fees:
Price per square foot:	Property taxes:
Special Features of the House:	

City #3: \_\_\_\_\_

House #1	
Number of bedrooms:	Price of Home:
Number of bathrooms:	Estimated monthly payment:
Lot size:	HOA fees:
Price per square foot:	Property taxes:
Special Features of the House:	

House #2	
Number of bedrooms:	Price of Home:
Number of bathrooms:	Estimated monthly payment:
Lot size:	HOA fees:
Price per square foot:	Property taxes:
Special Features of the House:	

House #3	
Number of bedrooms:	Price of Home:
Number of bathrooms:	Estimated monthly payment:
Lot size:	HOA fees:
Price per square foot:	Property taxes:
Special Features of the House:	

### III. Choose a House

If you were to choose one of these houses now, which one would you choose?

City: \_\_\_\_\_ House #: \_\_\_\_\_

The estimated monthly payment from Zillow is not necessarily the payment you would make. Your actual payment is based on how much of a down payment you make, the interest rate, and the length of the loan. Use the Google mortgage calculator to explore the following payment options.

Price of the home you chose: \_\_\_\_\_

Option 1: 30-year mortgage

Down payment amount: 20%	
Amount of Loan (price of home – down payment):	
Monthly Payment:	
Total Cost of Mortgage:	

Option 2: 15-year mortgage

Down payment amount: 20%	
Amount of Loan (price of home – down payment):	
Monthly Payment:	
Total Cost of Mortgage:	

Option 3: 30-year mortgage

Down payment amount: 10%	
Amount of Loan (price of home – down payment):	
Monthly Payment:	
Total Cost of Mortgage:	

Option 4: 30-year mortgage

Down payment amount: 5%	
Amount of Loan (price of home – down payment):	
Monthly Payment:	
Total Cost of Mortgage:	

Which mortgage option would you choose? \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Closing Costs**

You will also have to pay closing costs. The amount you pay for this varies, but it is typically 3 – 5% of the home price. For this activity, let's say it is 4%. Calculate the closing costs for the house you chose.

Closing Costs: \_\_\_\_\_

**V. Total Monthly Payment**

Your total monthly payment will include the loan payment, estimated property tax per month, and insurance payment.

Monthly loan payment for the option you chose: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Property tax per month: \_\_\_\_\_

(The estimated property tax amount found through Zillow is the annual amount. Use this to find the monthly.)

For this activity, let's use \$100 per month for insurance.

Total Monthly Payment: \_\_\_\_\_

**VI. Can You Afford It?**

One of the most important aspects of buying a home is making sure you can afford it.

Choose three possible career choices. Find the median salary for each of those career options. Calculate 30% of your monthly salary for each career choice. Use this to determine if you can afford the house you chose.

Career #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Median Annual Salary:	
Monthly Salary:	
Amount available for house payment (30% of monthly salary):	
Can you afford the house you chose? Yes/No	

Career #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Median Annual Salary:	
Monthly Salary:	
Amount available for house payment (30% of monthly salary):	
Can you afford the house you chose? Yes/No	

Career #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Median Annual Salary:	
Monthly Salary:	
Amount available for house payment (30% of monthly salary):	
Can you afford the house you chose? Yes/No	

## VII. Dream Home

If you were able to live anywhere, no matter the cost, where would you like to live? What would you look for in a house? Would you live in a mansion? A cabin in the woods? A house on the beach? Search for the house of your dreams.

Location:	
Number of bedrooms:	Price of Home:
Number of bathrooms:	Estimated monthly payment:
Lot size:	HOA fees:
Price per square foot:	Property taxes:
Special Features of the House:	

## VIII. Features

Now that you've had a chance to look at some houses, what would you look for in a house? List 5 features you would look for when searching for a house:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.