

A SHARE to Spare

Have you ever wondered: If you can take out library books for free... who buys the books? Or who pays to have bumpy roads smoothed out? Who pays firemen or rescue workers?

The answer: taxes pay for all of this! In this issue, Sparky explains taxes and how they help us live healthy and safe lives.

WHAT IS A TAX?

A tax is money that the government collects to pay for projects, services, and other things everyone uses. Paying taxes is how every citizen helps their community, state or country by pitching in on the cost of things we all need.



Even the toys you buy have a sales tax!

WHAT EVEN IS 'TAX TIME'??

Tax time is when adults must sit down and look at how much money their family made and spent the year before. Then, they fill out forms that explain those details to the government. After that, they might get some money back...or they might owe some money if they didn't pay enough in taxes during the year. Typically taxes must be filed by April 15.

even buying things. The amount you pay for a tax changes depending on what it's for or where you live. Some things are taxed when they are used, like the money you pay when driving on a toll road. Some things are taxed to try and convince people NOT to do something! Things like cigarettes, which are bad for your health, have extra taxes in the hopes people won't use them.

WHAT GETS TAXED?

Taxes come from the money you make from working, owning a home and

WHAT HAPPENS TO TAX MONEY?

Money collected from taxes pays for all kinds of things – repairing bridges

or building parks, hiring government workers and the military, paying for rescue and recovery during a disaster like a hurricane, and much more.

Your town also uses tax money on things that help you! This includes things like the truck that picks up your trash, the snowplows that clear your roads, even the school you go to!



Money collected from city taxes can be spent on building public playgrounds!

Share with Sparky!

What is something you have to pay for that you think should be bought with taxes? Why do you think it would be better to have the cost shared by the community?

Remember to write your answer below and mail it with your color contest entry or email it to communications@ffcommunity.com

Tax Facts!

1. If you count every American adult doing taxes, the total time it takes to complete all the forms each year is about 2.6 billion hours!
2. Germany, Japan, Sweden, Spain, Russia, The United Kingdom, and Denmark are just a few countries that calculate taxes FOR many of their citizens!
3. People living in Maryland are charged a tax for having a toilet that flushes!



TYPES OF Taxes

Tax time isn't the only time of year that people pay taxes.

Many different types of taxes are added to things we pay for or taken from things we get. Read through and learn about the different types of taxes below:

Income Tax: Taxes paid on money you earn from your job or investments.

Property Tax: Taxes paid on your home and the land you own.

Gift Tax: Taxes paid if you're giving a lot of money, expensive items or property to one person as a present.

Sales Tax: Taxes paid on what we buy, like clothes or toys.

Travel Tax: Taxes paid on items and services related to a trip – like hotels and rental cars.

Sin Tax: Taxes paid when people buy something harmful like alcohol.

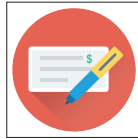
Use the terms above to fillout what types of taxes go with the images below.



1. Grandpa Buys you a Sports Car



2. A Box of Crayons



3. Weekly Paycheck



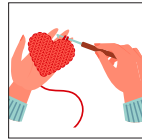
4. Your First House



5. A Brand New Bike



6. Two Nights at a Resort



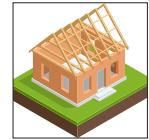
7. Earnings from Etsy Shop



8. A Stay at a Bed & Breakfast



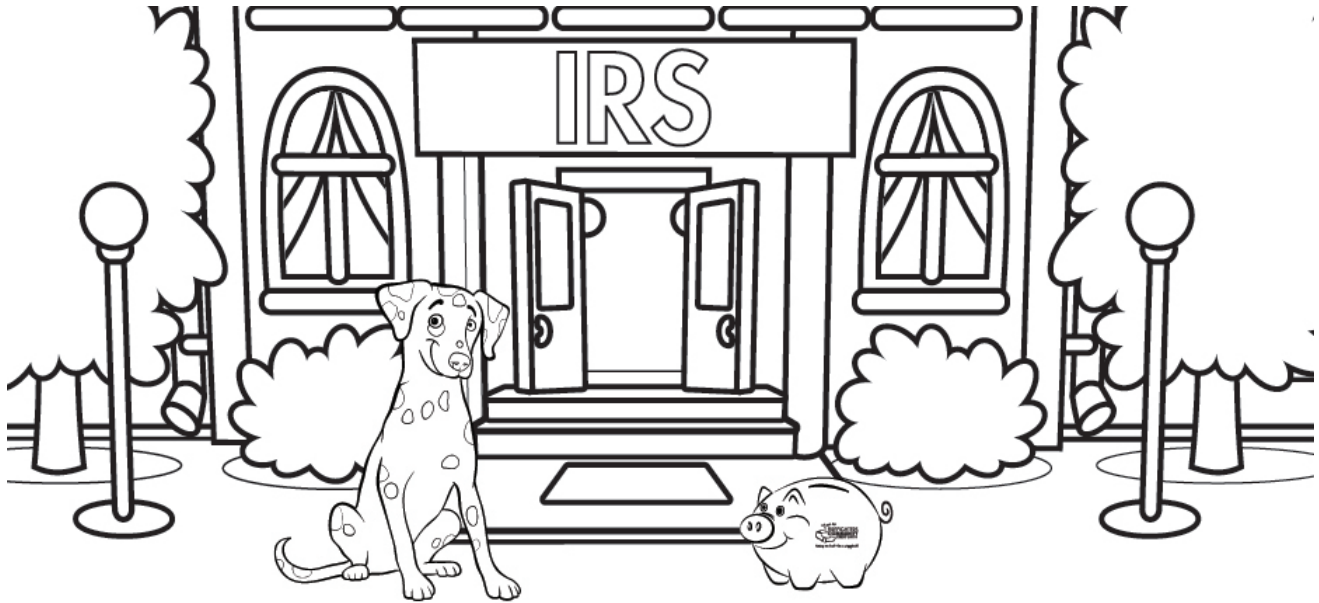
9. Cigarettes (gross!)



10. Built a Guest House

Coloring Contest

Congratulations to **Teagan G.** for winning our Q1 Sparky coloring contest!



Color with Sparky and Smokey! Submit your entry **by May 31, 2024** for a chance to win a prize!

(Child) Name: _____ Age: _____ Phone: _____

(Parent/Guardian) Name: _____ Email: _____

Mail to: FFCCU-Sparky's Club 4664 East 71st Street, Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio 44125