



*Plain Text Edition*

# **Follow the Money:** **The U.S. Budget and You**

## **Part 1: Introduction**

# 1. Introduction

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## What is this toolkit?

This toolkit is about the federal budget. It will explain:

- What the federal budget is.
- What taxes are.
- How the federal budget process works.
- What happens when the federal budget process doesn't work right.

## How can I use this toolkit?

You can read this toolkit from beginning to end. You can also go straight to the parts that you want to know more about.

"What is the federal budget?" explains what the federal budget is.

"What are taxes?" explains what taxes are.

"The Budget Process" explains how the federal budget process works.

"Does the budget process work?" talks about what happens when the budget process doesn't work.

"What can we do?" explains what you can do to change the federal budget.