

NEWS BREAK

Article: **'Dream big': Seattle-area kids and teens launching businesses**

Section: **BUSINESS, C5**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, October 25, 2026**, of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

Feel free to adapt this lesson for your students. For instance, some educators may assign this as a homework task, while others might facilitate the reading and discussion of questions within small groups or larger class discussions.

****Please take a moment to review all NIE content before classroom use to ensure it is suitable for your students.****

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Learning Objectives:

After reading the article, students will explain how young entrepreneurs in the Seattle area turn their ideas and interests into successful businesses while balancing school, work, and other responsibilities. Students will explore the skills needed to start and grow a business, including creativity, time management, marketing, and financial planning. Students will examine the challenges young business owners face, such as startup costs, taxes, access to resources, and competition, and consider how these barriers can affect their opportunities for success. Students will evaluate how family support, community programs, and social media can help young entrepreneurs develop their businesses and consider how young people can turn their passions into opportunities for the future.

Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you think the article will be about, using these pictures?
- Are there any clues? What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted word means using context clues? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the meaning of the word.

Some among the Seattle area's Generation Z and Alpha age groups are diving headfirst into **entrepreneurship**.

Entrepreneurship Guess:

Entrepreneurship Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. "I literally had to look everything up, find out how to do it on my own." He helped launch Hearth, a one-stop shop for footwear, clothing and accessories, with his brothers in 2022. Since then, it's expanded to three storefronts across Washington and Oregon, including Jun's location in

- Westfield Southcenter shopping mall in a partnership with former Seattle Seahawk _____.
2. In Washington, _____ business owners without paid workers are under 25 years old, per the latest available U.S. Census Bureau data, covering 2023.
 3. The statistics show these young entrepreneurs made up almost ____% of the state's total non-employer firm owners.
 4. Community leaders say it's not for lack of interest that more young people are not spearheading businesses. Instead, they point to the many obstacles. What 3 obstacles were mentioned in the article?

 5. Even _____ need to register with the state and apply for an Employer Identification Number from the federal government.
 6. And in Seattle, hurdles faced by young entrepreneurs — such as limited or no access to _____ and smaller professional networks — are compounded by the city's high costs.
 7. Like other businesses, Gran is dealing with climbing _____. She was briefly forced to bump up the price of her candles from \$19.50 to \$_____.
 8. Adalyn Smith, 16, said _____ - _____ is a priority for her. "I've always had different ambitions and dreams when it comes to my own career and how I want to get it jump-started early," she added.
 9. "The power of _____ is definitely helpful with that," she said.
 10. Jordyn Tuani, 12, runs Chunky Lemon, a business that churns out Hawaiian-style lemonade with _____ (pickled plum) powder. Jordyn's business stemmed from making lemonade for sporting events.
 11. Johnee and her husband, Caleb Tuani, 38, wanted to teach their children about _____ and the _____.

Class Discussion Questions:

- What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?
- At first, I thought _____, but now I think _____?

Deeper-Dive "Connect & Explain" Comprehension Questions for Small Groups, Entire Classes or Journal Entries and/or Essay Prompts for Extended Enrichment

1. The article explains that young people in the Seattle area are turning their interests and ideas into businesses, from selling handmade candles and press-on nails to offering Hawaiian-style lemonade. What motivates young people to become entrepreneurs, and how might starting a business help them develop skills that could benefit them in school, future careers, and everyday life?

2. Luke Jun helped launch Hearth with his brothers while he was in college, eventually expanding the business to three storefronts. He explained that he initially had to teach himself how to obtain a business license and set up the company. What challenges might young entrepreneurs face when starting a business without prior experience? How can research, persistence, and learning from mistakes help them overcome obstacles and turn their ideas into successful businesses?

3. The article explains that young business owners must balance entrepreneurship with schoolwork, sports, jobs, and other responsibilities. Adalyn Smith, for example, makes press-on nail sets in batches while managing school and track. Why is time management especially important for young entrepreneurs? What strategies could students use to balance a business with their education, extracurricular activities, and personal well-being?

4. The article describes several challenges young entrepreneurs face, including business registration, taxes, limited access to money, and the high cost of operating in the Seattle area. How might these barriers make it more difficult for young people to start and grow businesses? Which challenges might be especially difficult for teenagers who have limited financial resources or business experience, and what types of support could help them succeed?

5. The Tuani family supports Jordyn's lemonade business and Josiah's toy business as a way to teach responsibility and the value of money. Their mother also handles much of the behind-the-scenes work. How can family support contribute to a young entrepreneur's success? What lessons can children learn about money management, responsibility, teamwork, and independence through running a family business? How might parents balance helping their children with allowing them to make their own decisions and learn from mistakes?

6. The article features entrepreneurs ranging from 7 to 23 years old, demonstrating that people can begin exploring business ideas at different stages of life. What advantages might young people have when starting a business early, and what challenges might they encounter because of their age or limited experience? How could schools, community organizations, farmers markets, and youth entrepreneurship programs help young people gain the knowledge, resources, and confidence needed to pursue their ideas?

7. The article highlights businesses inspired by personal interests, including candle making, nail art, hair braiding, clothing, toys, and Hawaiian-style lemonade. Jordyn Tuani's business grew out of making lemonade for sporting events, while her brother started selling toys he enjoyed. How can personal interests, cultural connections, and community needs inspire new business ideas? What steps should a young entrepreneur take to determine whether an idea could become a sustainable business that attracts customers?

8. Imagine you are a high school student who wants to turn a personal interest into a small business while continuing to earn good grades and participate in extracurricular activities. What product or service would you offer, who would your customers be, and how would you promote your business? Develop a plan that considers startup costs, pricing, marketing, time management, and potential challenges. Explain how you would measure success and decide whether to grow, change, or discontinue your business.

Extended Essay Prompts

- The article explores how young people in the Seattle area are turning personal interests into businesses while balancing school, work, and other responsibilities. In your essay, examine the skills and qualities that contribute to entrepreneurial success. Use examples from the article to explain how creativity, persistence, time management, financial planning, and adaptability can help young entrepreneurs overcome challenges and achieve their goals.
- The article describes the financial and administrative challenges young entrepreneurs face, including startup costs, taxes, limited access to funding, and the high cost of operating a business in the Seattle area. In your essay, evaluate how these barriers affect young people's opportunities to start and grow businesses. Consider what schools, families, community organizations, and government agencies could do to provide young entrepreneurs with greater access to resources, mentorship, and financial support.
- The article highlights how social media, online sales, and community markets help young entrepreneurs reach customers and grow their businesses. In your essay, examine how technology and community connections can influence the success of small businesses. Use examples from the article to compare the advantages and disadvantages of selling products online, participating in local markets, and operating a physical storefront. Explain how a young entrepreneur could choose the best approach for their business goals and financial circumstances.
- The article presents entrepreneurship as an opportunity for young people to pursue their ambitions, develop financial independence, and explore potential careers. However, running a business also requires time, money, and responsibility. In your essay, evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of starting a business while still in school. Consider how entrepreneurship can help students develop practical skills and explore career interests, while also examining the potential effects on academic performance, extracurricular activities, stress, and personal well-being.
- The article describes businesses inspired by personal interests, including candles, nail art, hair accessories, toys, clothing and Hawaiian-style lemonade. In your essay, explain how a personal passion or a community need can become the foundation of a business. Develop a hypothetical business idea of your own, identifying your target customers, product or

service, startup costs, pricing, marketing strategy, and plans for managing challenges. Use examples from the article to explain how you would adapt your business as it grows and responds to customer needs.

NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register online](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655. Copyright © 2026 The Seattle Times Company