



Lesson Plan: Exploring Monopolies with Craster's Keep

Title: *Craster's Monopoly: Control Beyond the Wall*

Theme: Using Craster's Keep as a case study to understand monopoly power in economics.

Learning Objectives

1. Define the concept of a monopoly and its characteristics.
 2. Analyze the economic implications of monopolistic control over resources.
 3. Discuss how monopolies influence pricing, consumer choice, and resource allocation.
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Materials Needed

1. Video: *Craster's Monopoly: Control Beyond the Wall* (<https://econthrones.com/monopoly/>)
 2. Whiteboard or digital presentation software for visual aids.
 3. Worksheet on monopoly analysis (provided below).
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Lesson Steps

1. Engage (5 minutes)

- Begin with a discussion: "*What happens when one person controls something that everyone needs?*"
 - Show the *Craster's Monopoly: Control Beyond the Wall* video.
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2. Explore (15 minutes)

Discussion Questions (Post-Video):

- *What resources does Craster have a monopoly on? (Food and warmth beyond the wall.)*
- *How does Craster use his monopoly power to control the rangers of the Night's Watch?*

- *What are the consequences for those who rely on Craster's resources?*
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3. Explain (10 minutes)

Use the whiteboard or presentation to explain:

1. Definition of a Monopoly:

- A market structure where a single seller controls the entire supply of a good or service.

2. Characteristics of Craster's Monopoly:

- **Barriers to Entry:** No alternative sources of food or warmth beyond the wall.
- **Price Control:** Craster sets the terms for payment (extracting high costs from the Night's Watch).
- **Lack of Competition:** No viable substitutes for the resources he provides.

3. Impacts of a Monopoly:

- **Economic:** Higher prices and reduced access for consumers (the Night's Watch).
 - **Ethical:** Abuse of power due to lack of competition or regulation.
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4. Evaluate (5 minutes)

- **Reflection Question:** *"If you were in charge of regulating Craster's Keep, what would you do to reduce the negative impacts of his monopoly?"*
 - Encourage students to consider ethical and practical solutions (e.g., creating alternative food sources or forming alliances to reduce dependency).
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Assessment

1. Participation in discussion and group activity.
 2. Completion of the monopoly analysis worksheet.
 3. Quality of responses in the reflection question.
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Extension Opportunity:

Have students research a real-world monopoly and compare it to Craster's Keep. This can include industries like tech, healthcare, or utilities.