



Lesson Plan: Exploring the Broken Window Fallacy through Game of Thrones's Prince Doran Martell

Theme: Using Prince Doran Martell's decision to illustrate the Broken Window Fallacy and the economic implications of war.

Learning Objectives

1. Define the Broken Window Fallacy and its relevance to economic growth.
 2. Analyze Prince Doran's decision to avoid war as an example of economic rationality.
 3. Compare the economic trade-offs between war spending and productive investment.
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Materials Needed

1. Video: *Broken Window Fallacy – Prince Doran* (<https://econthrones.com/broken-windows-fallacy/>)
 2. Visual aids: Charts or slides on the opportunity costs of war spending.
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Lesson Steps

1. Engage (5 minutes)

- Begin with a thought experiment: *"Imagine your phone breaks and you spend \$500 on repairs. Does this help or hurt the economy?"*
 - Introduce the concept of the Broken Window Fallacy: the idea that replacing destroyed goods does not lead to economic growth because resources are diverted from other productive uses.
 - Show the *Broken Window Fallacy – Prince Doran* video.
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2. Explore (15 minutes)

Discussion Questions (Post-Video):

- *Why does Prince Doran choose to avoid war with the Lannisters?*
 - *What are the economic costs of waging war, according to Doran?*
 - *How does Ellaria Sand's perspective differ from Doran's? Why might she view the cost of war differently?*
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3. Explain (10 minutes)

Use the whiteboard or presentation to explain:

1. **The Broken Window Fallacy**

- Coined by economist Frédéric Bastiat, the fallacy suggests that destruction does not benefit the economy because it diverts resources from more productive uses.

2. **Connection to War:**

- War spending focuses on military goods (e.g., weapons, armor) that do not create lasting value for the economy.
- Resources used for war could instead be invested in consumer goods, infrastructure, or education, which contribute to economic growth.

3. **Prince Doran's Perspective:**

- Avoiding war preserves resources for constructive use.
 - Emphasizes opportunity cost: the value of what is foregone when resources are used for war instead of other priorities.
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4. Elaborate (15 minutes)

Activity: Group Discussions or Think-Pair-Share

- Have students go into groups or do a think-pair-share to answer two questions
 - **Question:** War is an real-world example of when destruction might boost GDP but is a case of the Broken Window Fallacy? Can you come up with other examples?

After students work together, ask some groups to share their answers with the class.

Extension Opportunity:

Have students research historical examples of post-war economies (e.g., post-WWII Europe) to examine how war affects long-term economic recovery and growth.