

# Cartoons for the Classroom

Presented by NIEonline.com and the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)



Courtesy Lisa Benson / Victor Valley Daily Press

## Dems & dat dang debt

### Talking points

1. Explain the symbols Lisa Benson uses in the cartoon. Why a pig? Why a donkey? What do they represent?
2. The donkey is leading the pig down path that's labeled unsustainable. The donkey's been warned. Even the pig is wary. What's the point the cartoonist is trying to get across?
3. Read the "Between the Lines" section and explain why the democrats should take the blame for the bulging debt. Is that fair?

### Additional resources

More by Lisa Benson  
<http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/browse.cfm/BensoL>

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists  
<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

### Between the lines

The federal government is now \$13 trillion in the red, the Treasury Department reported last week, marking the first time the government has sunk that far into debt and putting a sharp point on the spending debate on Capitol Hill.

Calculated down to the exact penny, the debt totaled \$13,050,826,460,886.97 as of Tuesday, leaping nearly \$60 billion since Friday, the previous day for which figures were released.

"At \$13 trillion, that figure has risen by \$2.4 trillion in about 500 days since President Obama took office, . . . which led Republicans on Wednesday to place blame squarely at the feet of Mr. Obama and his fellow Democrats.

At \$13 trillion, that works out to an obligation of more than \$42,000 for every U.S. resident.

-- Washington Times  
<http://goo.gl/KSa2/>