<http://www.daveramsey.com/article/how-teens-can-become-millionaires/lifeandmoney_kidsandmoney/>

Ben and Arthur were friends who grew up together. They both knew that they needed to start thinking about the future. At age 19, Ben decided to invest $2,000 every year for eight years. He picked investment funds that averaged a 12% interest rate. Then, at age 26, Ben stopped putting money into his investments. *So he put a total of $16,000 into his investment funds.*

**Now Arthur didn’t start investing until age 27.** Just like Ben, he put $2,000 into his investment funds every year until he turned 65. He got the same 12% interest rate as Ben, but he invested 31 more years than Ben did. *So Arthur invested a total of $78,000 over 39 years.*

**HAVE STUDENTS COME UP WITH AMOUNTS THEY INVESTED**

When both Ben and Arthur turned 65, they decided to compare their investment accounts. Who do you think had more? Ben, with his total of $16,000 invested over eight years, or Arthur, who invested $78,000 over 39 years?

Who was ahead?

 -how much?

 -$16,000 can become almost $2.3 million



Believe it or not, Ben came out ahead … $700,000 ahead! Arthur had a total of $1,532,166, while Ben had a total of $2,288,996. How did he do it? **Starting early is the key.** He put in less money but started eight years earlier. That’s compound interest for you! **It turns $16,000 into almost $2.3 million!** Since Ben invested earlier, the interest kicked in sooner.