



GRADE 6+

What is Currency? | Lesson Plan

What is currency and why is it important?

Students learn about currency, the different types, and why we use it.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand what currency is and how it is useful.
- Describe what people used to acquire goods before currency.
- Define key terms associated with currency, including bartering, mint, counterfeit currency, and exchange rate.
- Explain where currency comes from today.
- Differentiate between the different types of currency.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Currency:** Money, in the form of paper and coins, with a specific value that can be used to pay for a good or service.
- **Bartering:** When two or more people or groups trade items without using money.
- **Mint:** The agency of the government that produces money, especially coins.
- **Counterfeit Currency:** Money that is produced illegally and made to look like real money.
- **Exchange Rate:** How one currency's value compares to another's value.

Educational Standards: Financial Literacy, Personal Finance, Life Skills

What You'll Need

- Video: [Ca\\$h Cour\\$e: What Is Currency?](#)



Scan to watch video.

- Worksheet: *Ca\$h Cour\$e: What Is Currency?* ([Download PDF](#))
- Bartering cards ([Download PDF](#))

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: Bartering exercise. (20 mins.)

1. Ask: *Have you ever traded something with your friends? Why did you make the trade? How did you know the trade was fair?*
2. Explain to the students that they will be doing an exercise where they trade items represented by cards
3. Distribute five bartering cards to each student and explain that they must trade, or barter, with their classmates until they like all of the items on their cards.
4. Encourage students to think about the items on their cards and find out what others have. Invite them to move around the room and talk to different students before making a deal.
5. Ask: *Are you happy with all of your cards? What do you think is a fair deal? Would it be easier if you could just buy cards with money?*

Watch and Apply: (15 mins.)

1. State: *We will watch this video and see what we can learn about currency, then answer some questions to see what we've learned!*
2. Watch the video, *Ca\$h Cour\$e: What Is Currency?* (have students put away the worksheet).
3. Distribute the *Ca\$h Cour\$e: What Is Currency?* Worksheet and have the students complete it as a no- or low-stakes assessment.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. After the assessment (you may choose to collect or not), work through the questions as a class and discuss any areas where students needed help, still needed to complete it, or had questions.
2. Discuss: *Why do you think people stopped bartering and started using currency? Is it easier to barter or to pay with money?*

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (5-10 mins.)

- Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.
- Or, have students watch the video at home and use the worksheet as a quick quiz the next day in class.