



Cryptocurrency | Lesson Plan

What is cryptocurrency and how is it used?

Students will understand the concept of cryptocurrency, its technology, economic implications, and associated risks.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand what cryptocurrencies are.
- Identify potential risks and challenges associated with cryptocurrency.
- Define key terms associated with cryptocurrency.
- Explore the concept of Bitcoin and blockchain technology.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Cryptocurrency:** Digital money protected by encryption on a blockchain network.
- **Blockchain:** Public ledger that records every transaction.
- **Bitcoin:** The first digital currency operating without central control.
- **Fiat currency:** Government-issued money, not backed by physical goods.
- **Decentralized currency:** Currency not controlled by any government.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.7, CCRA.R.1, CCRA.W.2, CCRA.W.6, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCSS.MP2, CCSS.MP4, CCSS.MP5, CCSS.MP6, CCSS.MP7

Academic Subject Areas: Financial Literacy, Money, Investors

What You'll Need

- Video: Ca\$h Cour\$e: Cryptocurrency (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: Ca\$h Cour\$e: Cryptocurrency (Click [Here](#))
- Classroom whiteboard and dry-erase markers (Or a technology resource if available).

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin by asking students if they have ever used virtual coins or points in a video game to buy items. Define what Bitcoin is and how it is used.
2. On the whiteboard, make two columns, one titled "Video Game Currency" and one titled "Bitcoin."
3. Have students list similarities and differences between the two (e.g., digital nature, used for purchases, earned through tasks, etc.). Are there differences?
4. Encourage students to think of examples of things that might be purchased with Bitcoin in the real world.



Watch and Discuss: (25 mins.)

1. Introduce the video, "Ca\$h Cour\$e: Cryptocurrency," to the students, explaining that this technology has economic implications and risks.
2. Watch the video as a class. Pause at opportune moments to ask questions and check for understanding of key vocabulary words and their meaning.
3. After the video, discuss the following:
 - How does cryptocurrency reduce dependence on central financial authorities?
 - Discuss the volatility of cryptocurrency prices and how market demand influences its value.
 - Highlight how cryptocurrencies can facilitate international trade by bypassing traditional banking systems.
 - Discuss the importance of digital wallet security and the risks of hacking.
 - Point out the rapid changes in value, affecting investments.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Distribute the *Ca\$h Cour\$e: Cryptocurrency Worksheet* for students to complete individually or in groups. Consider collecting as a formative assessment.
2. Correct as a class and invite questions or comments from students.
3. Close the lesson with a remark about how this evolving digital currency is opening new doors and posing interesting questions and opportunities. Invite students to stay informed about cryptocurrency developments.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (10-15 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.