

Unusual Currency: Further Activities

Money maker

Design your own currency.

Think about these important characteristics of money when you're making your own money.

Please share your designs with us!

- Easy to carry
- Easy to count
- Durable
- Long-lasting
- Difficult to copy

Enjoy chocolate the Aztec way



Make Xocolatl - the spicy, bitter Aztec chocolate drink!

Ingredients:

- 350ml milk (or water, if you want to be authentic)
- 100g dark chocolate, chopped
- 120ml water
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 red chili (or a pinch of ground cayenne pepper)

Instructions:

1. Warm the milk and chocolate in a pan over low heat until the chocolate melts, whisking often.
2. Whisk in the water, cinnamon and vanilla.
3. Cut the chili in half and remove the seeds. Add the chili to the pot. Allow the mixture to come to a boil, remove from heat.
4. Allow the mixture to sit for 10 minutes to infuse the flavours.
5. Cool and enjoy!

Please ask an adult to help you make this. ALLERGIES: This recipe includes milk and chocolate.

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Spare a buck

Did you know that deer skins were used as money in the US in the 18th century?



The deer skins were known as buckskins – buck is the American word for a male deer. This is why Americans sometimes refer to their money as ‘bucks.’

There are many different words for money.

How many can you find?

Make your own Money Museum



Research the smallest, heaviest and weirdest types of money. Where were they used? Why were they valuable? Would they be easy to use as money?

Make your own museum of unusual currency featuring your favourite examples.

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Currency exchange

The Aztecs did a lot of trade with people from Spain. In 1555, one Spanish real was equal to 140 cocoa beans. This was the exchange rate.



Choose a country you'd like to visit. What kind of money is used there?

Use the exchange rate to convert British pounds to the country's currency and to compare the cost of a bus ticket, a meal and a hotel stay.

Money matters



Have a discussion in class or with friends or family about a question on money:

Can money buy happiness?

Would it be possible to live in a cashless society - one where there are no coins or banknotes?