

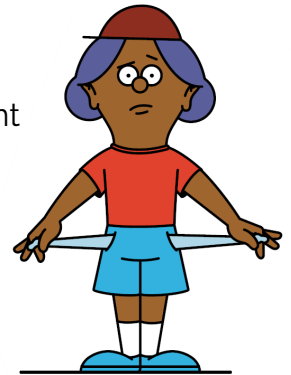
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## Educator's Guide: **A Quick History of Money: From Bartering to Bitcoin**

With Curriculum Connections, Discussion Questions and Activities  
By Clive Gifford, illustrated by Rob Flowers

Curriculum Connections, Grades 3-7  
English Language Arts, Art, History, Government

Guide created by We Love Children's Books



### Objective

Students will read the book independently; participate in a class discussion; and complete independent activities using the book as a springboard.

### About the Book

Money might sound all grown-up and serious, but the history of buying, selling, saving, and stealing is full of crazy stories and unbelievable facts. **A Quick History of Money** is packed with facts and jokes, taking readers on a chronological tour and giving the lowdown on the important stuff like interest, stocks and shares, and wealth inequality.

### About the Author

Clive Gifford has traveled to more than 70 countries, climbed rocket launch towers, ridden on robots, and flown gliders. He's had more than 200 books published and has received nominations for or won Royal Society, School Library Association, Smithsonian, and TES awards. He won the Blue Peter Book Award for Best Book with Facts 2019 for his title The Colors of History. Clive lives in Manchester, UK.

### About the Illustrator

Rob Flowers channels his love for ghoulish characters, psychedelic colors, and anthropomorphic food into his bright and brilliant work. To the backdrop of a hoard of vintage action figures and Happy Meal toys, he creates his illustrations that embody this obvious love for humor and characters. His books for Wide Eyed Editions include A Quick History of the Universe and A Quick History of Money.

## Post-reading discussion questions

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1. What are some of the reasons that humans invented money? What are some other names for money? Can you name some of the cultures who still don't use money today? How much money, in US dollars, is out and about in the world today? What is the most recognizable banknote in the world, and how many are in circulation?
2. How did some earlier cultures provide rewards before money was invented? Where does the name "money" come from? How do you think that compulsory giving would work today? Would you like to have the government provide all your daily needs plus give you work to do?
3. Where did bartering begin? How long ago? Have you ever bartered with siblings or friends? What is a commodity that you would be willing to barter for? What are some of the problems with the barter system?
4. For an object to work as currency, what qualities does it need? What were some objects used as currency in the past? What are cowries and where were they used? What Pacific Island culture used the biggest, heaviest money and what was it? What did the Aztecs use for money? Which was worth more – gardening hoes or cocoa beans? What was the going rate for a live child?
5. What were the world's first coins called? What were they made of? What kingdom started using them? How long ago? What were some of the symbols that countries put on their coins? What was the first coin accepted throughout much of the ancient world? What is one tetradrachm worth today?
6. How did criminals use coin clipping to get rich from early coins? What often happened to them if they were caught? Whose idea put a stop to coin clipping? And what was the idea? What are some ways that modern criminals steal money?
7. Why is gold so valuable? How old is the oldest collection of gold treasure? How was it discovered? Which islanders did not find gold valuable? What did they use instead? How did gold bring the Spanish Conquistadors to the Americas?
8. Where does the Chinese symbol for money come from? What things were used as money in ancient China? When did the Chinese start using paper money? Why? What does the term "fiat money" mean? Who first created it? What was the one big mistake they made with fiat money, and what was the result?



9. What is inflation, and what is hyperinflation? What happened in Germany in the 1920's because of hyperinflation? What was the largest denomination note printed because of hyperinflation?
10. Who was the world's richest man in 1312 CE? Just how rich was he? When he travelled to Mecca, how many enslaved peoples had to carry his gold bars? Can you name some of the United States' richest people? How did they make their fortunes? How do you feel about the fact that three of these rich Americans own more than the poorest 160 million Americans put together? Can you suggest some ways that this wealth inequality can be addressed?
11. In 1252, which country was the leading center for trade in Europe? Which Italian words does the word "bankrupt" come from? What does it mean to be bankrupt? If a person goes bankrupt, what action can they take? What happens when a government goes bankrupt?
12. What year was the first stock exchange set up and why? What does a stock exchange do? How do stocks and shares work? Does this seem to you like a logical way for a company to raise money?
13. Name some other ways, instead of selling stocks, that a modern company (or person) can raise money. How do microbanks help people in poor countries? What are some crowdfunding websites and how do they work? Would you loan money to a friend, or borrow money from a friend, to set up your business?
14. What is interest? What is the difference between simple and compound interest? When might you EARN interest? And when might you PAY interest?
15. What does ATM stand for? Who invented the ATM, and in what year? How many ATM's are there around the world? How do some criminals try and steal money through ATM's?
16. Why do people deposit their money into banks? How many people in the world do not have a bank account? Can you give some examples of ways you and your parents spend money but not cash money?
17. When did credit cards start to be used? How does revolving credit work? How do credit card companies make money with credit cards? What year were American women finally able to get a credit card without a man on the account? What are some problems with using credit cards?
18. What is cryptocurrency? What are advantages and disadvantages of using Bitcoin?

## English Language Arts

- Income, Wealth, Expenditures and Debt are the four figures the book suggests you need to keep track of, to manage your money. Write a short essay explaining each of these terms and how they work together for your financial health.
- Invent a new currency and then write a letter to your friends describing what it is, how much it's worth, and encouraging them to start using it.
- The book suggests a few ways you could save money, like not buying bottled water. Write an essay talking about some other ways you can increase your savings.
- Research modern-day careers working with money, and write an essay explaining the pros and cons of each one.
- Choose one of the books suggested in the "Taking Things Further" section, read it, and write a book report about it.

## Art

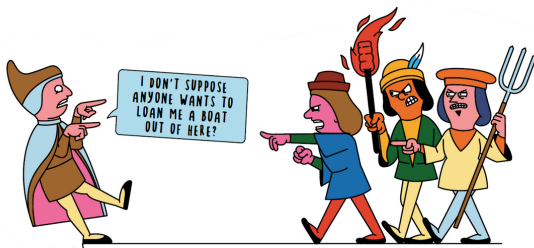
- Design a poster depicting money and objects commonly used as money throughout history.
- Design your own currency for use in your school or neighborhood.
- Design a graphic that you can post on social media, encouraging friends to donate to your crowdfunding campaign. Ideas: do you want to build a new product, take a trip around the world, do something to help a neighbor in need?
- Redesign the United States currency, both coins and bills. Who would you like to see on a \$100 bill?

## History/Government

Complete the money quiz given in the book—and after you're done, look at the answers to see how you did!

Choose one of these subjects, conduct research, and write a report:

- The Medici family and their bad deeds
- The U.S. Mint
- Numismatists
- Fractional reserve banking
- Cryptocurrency
- The 1929 stock market crash and the Great Depression
- Fort Knox
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP)



### More in the Quick Histories series



**A Quick History of the Universe** (9780711262737)

**A Quick History of Politics** (9780711262744)

**A Quick History of Math** (9780711249035)