

Exploring Currency: Past and Present

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| **Introduction** | |
| Students will use their background knowledge of natural resources and how they have helped shape civilizations throughout history to create their own currency, | |
| **Indiana Standards Connections:**  SS. K.1.1 Compare children and families of today with those from the past  SS.K.4.1 Explain that people work to earn money to buy the things they want.  SS.K.3.6 Identify and compare similarities and differences in families, classmates, neighbors and neighborhoods, and ethnic and cultural groups. | **Compelling Question(s):**    How did natural resources shape currency throughout history?  What characteristics should be included when creating currency?  How has currency changed over time?  Why was currency created? |
| **Lesson Objectives:**  Students will understand that currency became a necessity in trade as people became more mobile and began to trade across regions and in order to create a standard for trade that solved the problem of equity in trade. | |
| **Materials** | |
| * One Cent, Two Cents, Old Cent, New Cent by Bonnie Worth * Air Dry Clay * Bar Currency (Source: Windows to the World) <https://w2w.indiana.edu/explore-collections/bar-currency.html> | |
| **Learning Plan** | |
| **Activities**  Read One Cent, Two Cent, Old Cent, New Cent.  Explore different types of currency throughout time. Discuss the use of symbols and figure of cultural significance.  Discuss what makes a good currency and what sort of resources we have locally that could be used to create currency.  Create an anchor chart of student ideas.  Give students clay instructing them to use what they know to create their own currency.  Ask students to explain the choices they made. | |
| **Assessment Suggestions**   * Informal Observations * Currency Model * Oral Explanation | |
| **Extensions**  Create values for different types of currency and create an in class economy using them. | |