



One Cent, Two Cents, Old Cent, New Cent: All About Money



Use these questions with children 7 to 10 years old to discuss the following economic concepts in *One Cent, Two Cents, Old Cent, New Cent: All About Money* by Bonnie Worth (ISBN: 978-0-375-82881-2): **barter**, **characteristics of money**, **interest**, and **money**.

- 1. What word describes the beekeeper swapping his honey with the farmer for wheat?**
Barter
- 2. Barter is trading without using money. Would the beekeeper be able to swap with the farmer if the farmer didn't like honey?**
No
- 3. What are some reasons money was invented?**
"It was easier to use and decay was prevented." "It was easy to carry and count, and what's more, it was easy to save and easy to store."
- 4. What are some examples from the book of things that have been used as money?**
Shells, feathers, eggs, leather, and jade
- 5. Why weren't these successful as money?**
Eggs break and leather gets dirty. The items weren't solid and sturdy.
- 6. What else did people use as money?**
Copper, silver, and gold ingots [which are like bricks]
- 7. What was difficult about using these as money?**
They weren't easy to haul around.
- 8. What "brainstorm" did someone in Lydia have?**
To make metal coins
- 9. Why were metal coins useful as money?**
They were handier. They were easier to carry [portable], sturdy [long-lasting], durable [we are still digging them up], and the same shape and size [uniform].
- 10. In ancient time, where did people keep their money?**
Temples
- 11. Why did people keep their money in temples?**
It was a safe place to keep their money.
- 12. What is interest?**
Interest is the amount of money a bank pays you for keeping your money in a savings account. It is also the amount a bank charges you [a fee you must pay] when you borrow money.
- 13. What do you call someone who collects and studies money?**
A numismatist
- 14. What type of money did people make after metal coins?**
Paper money
- 15. What do we "mostly use all these coins" for?**
To make change
- 16. Being able to make change means our money is divisible. What type of money from the islands of Yap wasn't divisible or portable?**
Limestone coins eight-feet wide
- 17. Why is U.S. paper money made from linen and cotton?**
So it is more durable [longer-lasting] and doesn't rot.
- 18. So, what makes something useful as money?**
To be useful as money, something must have certain characteristics. It must be
 - durable—doesn't rot,
 - portable—easy to carry around,
 - divisible—we can make change,
 - relatively scarce—everyone can't just make their own, and
 - generally acceptable—people are willing to use it to save and to spend.