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Money Madness



Synopsis

What's all this madness about money? Long ago, people traded rocks or sheep for the items they wanted, but rocks were heavy and sheep ran away. This beginning guide to economics will have readers thinking about the purpose, and not just the value, of money.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 580 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Holiday House; Reprint edition (December 15, 2009)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.1 x 10 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #276,226 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Money](#) #107 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Money & Saving](#) #932 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Math](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 3
•Adler begins by asking young readers to imagine a world without money and the complications that would ensue. He then traces the history of our current monetary system, explaining early systems of bartering and the use of such things as rocks and feathers. Adler explains how the value of money fluctuates as prices go up and down and concludes with a discussion of digital money. One statement causes concern; the author states that "Checks and credit cards are money too, because they can be used to buy things." Regarding a credit card as money is irresponsible, and the two should not be equated. Miller's computer-generated illustrations are vibrantly colored if rather flat, but they do help to clarify and support some of the concepts and add some humor to the topic. The book will be useful as a starting point for units on money, but is otherwise an additional purchase.
•Grace Oliff, Ann Blanche Smith School, Hillsdale, NJ
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--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This brightly illustrated picture book introduces the concept of money, first by looking at its development as an alternative to bartering and then by explaining the many forms of money, from primitive rocks, feathers, and metal lumps to the familiar coins and paper bills to alternatives such as checks, credit cards, and digital forms of payment. Adler does a particularly good job explaining the inconvenience of bartering through child-friendly examples such as "How would a baker trade for a house? How many loaves of bread would he have to trade? And why would anybody want so much bread?" Using flat colors and stylized designs, Miller's upbeat digital artwork helps to clarify points made in the text, while adding occasional bits of visual humor. Photos of coins and bills are incorporated where appropriate, and some children will want to pore over the page showing colorful foreign money. For young children, a fine introduction to the subject.

Preschool-Grade 3. --Carolyn Phelan --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

There are at least 10 books that cover this information about money -- how a barter economy works, the development of currency, how money circulates through the economy, and specifics about US currency. This book has a memorable section on the impracticalities of barter economies, and an interesting table on currency exchange rates. More books on this topic (or very similar): "Round and Round the Money Goes" -- Melvin and Gilda Berger "Money Madness" - David A. Adler "What is Money?" -- Mary Firestone "The Go-Around Dollar" -- Barbara Johnston Adams "Follow the Money" -- Loreen Leedy Choose the one with the illustrations you prefer.

Great

Great for primary students.

People want money, but why? At first glance, currency around the world is simply paper with nice pictures printed on the front and back, but life would be more difficult if people did not use money. People would have to be much more self-sufficient, either producing life's necessities themselves or bartering with others for the commodities they need in their daily lives. Long ago, people used items such as rocks and livestock as a form of money, but rocks got heavy and the livestock could run away. Coins made of precious metals were a big improvement, but carrying many coins also proved burdensome. The creation of paper money helped people not only to buy and sell goods and

services, but also to provide a common measure of the value of these items. With its brisk text and eye-catching illustrations, this informative book is sure to appeal to younger children as they learn to navigate the economic world around them. When households around the world are talking about financial instability and economic security, this book comes as a welcome means for teaching children about the fundamentals of money and exchange.

Forthright text and pictures make the basics of money easy to grasp. A good book for early-and-middle elementary students, and a real draw for the home schooling parent. And to think, he also writes Cam Jansen! :-) Impressive.

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