

Money Makes the World Go Around

A lesson on the influence of colonial currency on unifying the government

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Abstract:

By undergoing an experiential learning activity, children will understand why a significant issue in the creation of our nation was a unified monetary system.

Essential Questions/Enduring Understandings:

What are some of the factors that influenced the Constitution?

How individual were each of the Colonies?

How contentious was it among the Colonies?

How much effort does it take to come to common goal when you are invested in your own stance?

How did individual monetary systems held by each colony created difficulty in unifying a fledgling nation?

Assessment:

Students will complete several assignments that will indicate their level of focus, attention, and understanding of the concepts.

1. Artifact Analysis Document
2. Venn Diagram comparing colonial currency
3. Reflection activity (3-2-1 worksheets)
4. Connection activity (class T-chart, with individual conclusion)

Primary Sources:

Students will be using reproductions of Colonial Currency to understand some of the concerns and arguments held by the colonies.

Materials list:

Colonial and Revolutionary currency Set "A" (Antiqued Reproductions)

Colonial and Revolutionary currency Set "B" (Antiqued Reproductions)

OR

Use these web sites to print off copies of Colonial and Revolutionary currency:

<http://www.coins.nd.edu/ColCurrency/>

<http://www.fi.edu/learn/sci-tech/colonial-money/colonial-money.php?cts=benfranklin>

OR

Image results for Colonial currency

Individual bags of candy or trinkets

Artifact Analysis document appropriate for your grade level

Venn Diagram

3-2-1 Worksheet A

3-2-1 Worksheet B

Conclusion strips

Day 1

- Pass out samples of colonial and revolutionary currency.
- Allow time for the children to look at them and make some observations.
- Have each child select one sample to analyze.
- Use document analysis to make systematic study of their denomination
- Pair with a partner to fill out Venn Diagram
- Collect currency and analysis

Optional:

Assign for homework: independent research on monetary conversion.

Day 2

- Pass currency back to children, making sure that each child had the same denomination they had before
- Pass out bags of candy/trinkets
- Assignment: Use your currency to buy/trade/barter with your classmates to make the best deal to get the largest amount of candy (or things) you like.
- 3-2-1 Worksheet A
- 3-2-1 Worksheet B

Day 3

Class discussion of activity

Brainstorm connections between class activity and colonial times

Class made T chart on giant craft paper

Title: Similarities and differences between our class selling with different currencies and the colonies selling with different currencies

One side would be the title of “similarities” the other side of the T chart would be “differences”.

Have kids do the conclusion strips.