



From Trading to Paying

Part 1

Teacher Reads Before people used money to pay for things, there was the barter system. It was a way to trade one thing for another thing without using money.

Think about a case like this: you want a toy that your
12 **friend** has, and she wants a slime-making kit that you have.
24 So, you join in a trade. You trade your slime-making kit for
37 your friend's toy. This is called bartering, and it has been
48 happening for a very long time. In the past, people bartered
59 for things they wanted and needed because there was no
69 **money**. Money had not been invented.

75 Bartering seemed like a fine way for people to get things
86 they wanted. But bartering had its problems. What if you had
97 soybeans but wanted sheep? You could offer to trade your
107 soybeans to a person for sheep. But what if the person did
119 not want the soybeans? When people did not have things
129 others wanted, no bartering happened.



Part 2

Teacher Reads When people bartered, they might have traded a sheep for something they wanted. A sheep had value (what something is worth) that could be used to pay for things the person wanted. The idea of money was developed as a way to show value.

134 At some point people began to use money. But it was not
146 the money we see today. In the past, people used all sorts of
159 things for money. They used **cows** and other animals, shells,
169 seeds, and tea for money. Those objects were like the cash
180 we use today. Just as we pay for things with cash, people in
193 the past could pay for things with objects they all felt were
205 **valuable**.

206 But there could be problems with some of the things used
217 as money. It could be hard for people to transport cows when
229 they needed to pay for things. If people were planning to use
241 things like soybeans or wheat as forms of money, the foods
252 might spoil before being used as money to pay for other
263 things.

Part 3

Teacher Reads The forms of money kept changing over the years. Then governments started making forms of money that were more convenient (easier for people to use).

264 After some time, coins started to be made from
273 gold and silver. **Paper** money started to be printed.
282 People could pay for things they wanted with coins and
292 paper money.

294 Today people can also choose to pay for things with
304 credit cards, debit cards, or electronic money. Money
312 today is very different from when money first started
321 being used. [Learn More](#)

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