

Money Is Just a Promise

M1 · Lesson 1 of 5
Year 8 · KS3

Simple Path: ~15 mins **Full Path:** ~20 mins **With Wrapper:** ~25-30 mins

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Money is a promise that everyone agrees to honour. It works because of trust, not because of what it's made of.

STARTER — ASK BEFORE DEVICES OPEN (3 MINS)

"Imagine you have a football but you want a skateboard. Your friend has a skateboard but wants a guitar. How do you get what you want?"

Let 2-3 students answer. Don't resolve it — the lesson explains why this is hard.

CLASS DISCUSSION — AFTER APP TIME (5 MINS)

1. "Can you think of something that has value only because people agree it does?"

Looking for: money, gold, football stickers, V-Bucks, likes on social media

2. "What would happen to money if everyone suddenly stopped trusting it?"

Looking for: it becomes worthless paper — link to hyperinflation if curious

3. "Is a promise between two friends the same as a promise between millions of strangers?"

Looking for: scale makes trust harder — that's why we need systems/banks/rules

EXIT TICKET — PAIRED DISCUSSION (2 MINS)

"What is the 'double coincidence of wants' and why did it make trading so difficult?"

In pairs — 30 seconds each, then swap.

PLENARY — QUICK CHECK

"Thumbs up if you can explain why a £10 note has value. Thumbs sideways if you're not sure. Thumbs down if you're lost."