Understanding money and current currency exchange

Student guide

  
*Money from around the world*

Step 1  
Explore the nature and history of money

Software: Microsoft® Encarta® or other encyclopedia, Microsoft Office OneNote® 2007

What to do: Research money and gather related information in OneNote

For your report, think about these questions:

* What is money?
* Why was it invented?
* What forms can money, as a medium of exchange, take?
* Why does the value of money change?

Give an example of how the value of money, as exchange or currency, changed dramatically in a short period of time in one country. (For example, when the Confederacy in the United States of America lost the Civil War, Confederate money suddenly became worthless; or when Yugoslavia broke apart into separate nations in the early 1990s, the Yugoslav dinar was revalued five times before losing all value and being replaced by three separate currencies.)

Start Encarta, click **Articles**,and then type **Money**. Read the first two sections of the article "Money," as along with related subjects, such as "Currency." If you do not have access to Encarta, research the topics "money," "currency,” "value," "exchange," and "banking" in another online encyclopedia.

In the Encarta article on money, click **Timeline** at the bottom of the page. A dynamic timeline appears. Type **money** in the **Topic** search box, and explore the topics that appear, from the earliest period to today, or click **Show custom timeline** to see all the events. Note the significant moments in the history of value and exchange. Make a list of 7–10 important shifts in the history of money, and enter them in your OneNote notebook with a brief description of the change and its significance. If you do not have access to the Encarta money timeline, research topics like these on the Internet: Shekel becomes standard unit of weight, banks appear in Mesopotamia, paper money introduced in China, Antwerp Stock Exchange built, and John Maynard Keyes's work on economic depressions.

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Use the Encarta World Atlas found in the Maps tool, or another map tool, to select two countries (in addition to your own) as subjects for research on currencies. Using Encarta or another encyclopedia, review the description of "Currency and Banking," along with the history of each country, and determine what each country's currency reflects about its culture. Also note and describe one major shift in value and exchange that each country underwent in its history. Record this information in your OneNote notebook.

Browse related entries, multimedia, and related Web sites suggested by the Encarta or other encyclopedia articles and record what you find in your OneNote notebook.

Use the XE Universal Currency Converter (Web access) ([http://www.xe.com/ucc/](http://www.xe.com/ucc/%20)) to convert the currencies of these three countries. Record the results in your notebook.

Step 2  
Create your report

## Software: Microsoft Encarta, Microsoft Office OneNote 2007

## What to do: Review your information, and outline your report

Review all the information you gathered in your OneNote Notebook from all appropriate articles, sidebars, media features, and Web sources to answer the original four questions. (Suggestion: Use maps and other media from Encarta World Atlas or another map tool, in addition to related articles and Web sites to illustrate your findings. It’s easy to insert or attach many different kinds of media, links, and files into OneNote.)

Organize your material into a comprehensive, coherent report. The flexible page layout in OneNote lets you organize your multimedia sources in many different ways.

**Note:** You can use the Encarta Researcher in the Homework Center to help you organize your information and outline your report. Use the chartmaker tool in the Homework Center to compare the exchange rate of the three currencies you studied.

Step 3  
Present your findings

## Software: Microsoft Encarta, Microsoft Office OneNote 2007, Microsoft® Office Word 2007

## What to do: Complete your report

When you are ready to polish your report from your OneNote notebook, click **File > Send To > Microsoft Office Word**.   
Alternatively, you can use the **Research paper** selection in **Project & Reports** in the Encarta Homework Center as your guide to preparing your report. Make sure to include any pictures, text, maps, or other items that help illustrate your findings.

Edit your Office Word 2007 document report.

Proof your report.