

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will understand the basics of money, including what it is, how it is used, and the importance of saving and spending wisely. The student will also be able to identify different coins and bills and understand their values.

Materials and Prep

- Paper and pencil
- A collection of coins (pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters)
- Play money or printed images of bills
- Access to a calculator (optional)

Before the lesson, familiarize yourself with the different types of coins and bills in your country. Prepare a simple chart that shows the value of each coin and bill to use as a reference during the activities.

Activities

- **Money Match-Up:** Create a matching game where the student pairs coins with their corresponding values. For instance, match a penny with "1 cent." This helps reinforce their understanding of coin values.
- **Shopping Simulation:** Set up a mini-store using household items. Assign prices to each item using play money or drawings. Let the student "shop" and practice counting out the correct amount of money to buy items.
- **Save or Spend Game:** Discuss different scenarios where the student has to decide whether to save or spend their money. Examples could include wanting a toy, saving for a bigger purchase, or donating to a cause.
- **Money Journal:** Have the student create a journal entry about what they learned about money today. They can draw pictures of coins, write about their favorite activity, and explain why saving money is important.

Talking Points

- "What is money? Money is something we use to buy things we want or need!"
- "Do you know why we have different coins and bills? Each one has a different value, which helps us buy things of different prices!"
- "Why is saving money important? Saving money helps us buy bigger things later on, like a new bike or a video game!"
- "Can you think of something you really want? How would you decide if you should save your money for it or spend it now?"
- "Did you know that some people donate money to help others? That's a great way to use money to make a difference!"