

## MATH IN OUR LIVES: CURRENCY STUDY GUIDE

### VOCABULARY

Currency	Any kind of money that is used for official trade.
Wampum	Native American currency made from clam shells.
Mint	The building where money is made – now the U.S. Mint produces only coins.
Denomination	A unit or amount of value.
Exchange Rate	The value of one currency compared to another.

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

What did people use as currency before the invention of coins and bills?

Where were the first coins discovered?

What is fractional money?

What is tricky about adding decimal numbers?

What organization is responsible for printing paper money in the United States? What are the main steps in the process of making money?

What can you learn by looking at currency from another country?

Why are 5 Canadian dollars not worth the same amount of money as 5 American dollars?

#### FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES

Have students research the most current exchange rates between different currencies, using the internet or a newspaper. Students can practice “exchanging” currency, or keep track of how these exchange rates change over time – a week, a month or the whole year. This information can then be displayed on a graph.

Have students create a currency map, bringing in as many different currencies as they can find, and putting them on a world map. What do they notice about money from different places?