Early Forms of Money

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Upper elementary students can learn about forms of money used by various cultures throughout history, as well as the six characteristics of money and why they are important through collaborative decision-making and evaluation.

This lesson introduces students to various forms of money used by various cultures throughout history. Students will learn about the six characteristics of money and why they are important. In collaborative groups, students will use a decision grid to evaluate different goods compared to the characteristics of money and analyze why money has evolved, why it is limited, and how the money supply impacts sellers and buyers. A class discussion will allow students to compare their results and as an assessment, students will examine and evaluate other historic forms of money to hypothesize where and how they were used. Find the lesson plan here.