

## Money

1. Use the table below to evaluate how well each item would perform the functions of money in today's economy. If an item seems to fulfill the function, put a + sign in the box; if it does not fulfill a function in your opinion, place a - sign in the box. Put a ? sign in the box if you are unsure whether the item fulfills the functions of money. The item with the most + signs would be the best form of money for you. In the space below the table, list the top six forms of money, according to your evaluation.

Item	Medium of Exchange	Store of Value	Standard of Value
Salt	-	-	-
Large stone wheels	-	+	-
Cattle	-	-	-
Gold	+	+	+
Copper coins	+	+	+
Beaver pelts	-	-	-
Personal checks	+	+	+
Savings account passbook	-	+	+
Prepaid phone card	?	+	+
Debit card	+	+	+
Credit card	+	-	+
Cigarettes	-	-	-
Playing cards	-	-	-
Bushels of wheat	-	-	-
\$1 bill	+	+	+
\$100 bill	+	+	+

Your top six forms of money: *Gold, copper coins, personal checks, debit card, \$1 bill and \$100 bill.*  
*Answers may vary.*

2. After you finish the evaluation in Question 1, rate the various items in the table below. Evaluate how well they meet the characteristics of money. Again, if an item seems to fit a characteristic, use a + sign; if the item does not seem to fit a characteristic, use a - sign. If there is a difference of opinion or if you are uncertain, use a ? sign. The item with the most + signs would best fit the characteristics of money. In the space below the table, list your six top items.

Item	Portability	Uniformity	Acceptability	Durability	Stability in Value
Salt	+	+	-	+	-
Large stone wheels	-	-	-	+	+
Cattle	-	-	-	?	-
Gold	+	+	?	+	-
Copper coins	+	+	?	+	-
Beaver pelts	+	-	-	+	?
Personal checks	+	+	?	+	+
Savings account passbook	+	+	-	-	+
Prepaid phone card	+	?	?	-	+
Debit card	+	+	+	+	+
Credit card	+	+	+	+	+
Cigarettes	+	-	-	-	-
Playing cards	+	-	-	-	-
Bushels of wheat	-	-	-	-	-
\$1 bill	+	+	+	+	+
\$100 bill	+	+	+	+	+

Your top six items: *Gold, copper coins, personal checks, debit card, \$1 bill and \$100 bill. Answers may vary.*

3. Why might factors such as ease of storage, difficulty in counterfeiting and security of electronic transfer of funds also be characteristics that you might use in evaluating money?  
*For an item to be a good medium of exchange, you would want to minimize the costs of holding or storing it. Counterfeiting and security affect the item's underlying value and might affect acceptability.*