

What is a bank and why does it matter?



Learning Outcomes

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Explain what a bank does and why banks exist.
- Describe how banks keep money safe and organised.
- Understand how money can be physical and digital.
- Recognise that not all types of money work in the same way.
- Identify how they can responsibly be part of the banking system.



Resources:

- Lesson plan
- PowerPoint slides
- 2 worksheets
- Post-it notes
- Scissors
- Transaction Tracker Game
- Dice
- Parent guide

Teacher notes on the slides include extra guidance, AfL prompts, and differentiation ideas to help you adapt the lesson for your class.

Starter

How would you manage £500?

- Introduce the activity: Students work in pairs or small groups to score each of the options out of 5 stars for safety and organisation.
- Give each group 8 Post-it notes (4 in one, 4 in another).
- Students score each storage method out of 5 stars for both criteria and stick post-its on the board/screen.
- Discuss results as a class, highlighting that banks offer both safety and organisation.



10 mins

Money sensitivity note

Frame all discussions about money as 'imagine if...' to respect diverse family financial situations and banking access. Avoid asking students about their family's banking habits or financial situation.

Main

Activity 1: Cash vs Digital Money (10 mins)

- Distribute "Cash vs Digital" worksheet and scissors.
- Students cut out statements and sort them.
- Class discussion: What are the key differences between the two types? Why might someone choose each method?

Activity 2: Transaction Tracker Game (15 mins)

- Explain the game to students using the slides provided.
- Distribute Transaction Tracker game boards, dice, and 'counter' to pairs.
- Students play the game.
- Class discussion: How was this similar to how real banks work? Highlight that banks automatically track transactions and update balances.

Activity 3: Is All Money The Same? (10 mins)

- Explain traditional currencies as being tied to a country. Explain that cryptocurrencies are fully digital and not tied to a country (for 18+ only).
- Show rollercoaster visual to illustrate how cryptocurrency value changes.
- Run the Currency Quiz: display statements and ask students to vote on whether each statement describes Pounds, Crypto, or Both. Answers are revealed after each question.

Activity 4: Are Banks Just for Adults? (10 mins)

- Introduce the concept that young people can have bank accounts with adult help. Distribute "Are You Bank Ready?" worksheet for students to complete.



45 mins

Plenary

Finish the article: "Banks matter because..."

- Students to discuss and complete the sentence in pairs.
- Take responses from the class to consolidate key learning about why banks are important, how they help people manage money, and how students can be responsible bank users.



5 mins

Curriculum Links

Mathematics

- Solving problems involving addition and subtraction of money.

Citizenship

- Understanding the role of money in everyday life.
- Developing confidence and responsibility when making financial choices.
- Understanding why systems are needed to keep people safe.

Ideas to extend learning

- Research different currencies around the world.
- Interview family members about how they manage money.
- Investigate children's bank accounts available in the UK.
- Explore the history of money and banking.