

Global Money Assignment • Spurlock Museum

Welcome!

At the Spurlock Museum, we love to talk about what people do and believe by talking about their “stuff.” We call this stuff *artifacts*, a word that means anything made or used by people, no matter where, no matter when.

One type of artifact we see all the time but rarely look at closely is paper money, which we refer to as bank notes. In this assignment, we will compare money from different countries. How are they the same? How are they different? What do they tell us?

Words to Know:

When talking about bank notes or coins, the front is called the *obverse* and the back is called the *reverse*.

Assignment: 3 parts

Preparing for the Assignments:

Go to <https://app.box.com/s/t0wn3hanpgg6rswr0dml44pypvhvpbdez>. Open the file called *Global Money Assignment Worksheet*. You will be entering your answers into the worksheet. Type in your name at the top. Move this worksheet a little to the side on the screen so you can continue to see the files and folders at the link.

Part 1:

Open the file called *U.S. Money Sheet*. It shows pictures of U.S. bank notes. If you move your cursor over the picture, you will see a black box. Click on the + or – signs to make the picture bigger or smaller.

On the Part 1 section of the worksheet, make a list of at least 7 things you observe about the bank notes. Here are 2 things to start with that are already written on the worksheet: 1) each bank note has numbers on it that tell us how much it is worth, and 2) most of the bank notes show a famous building or event on the back.

Part 2:

At the link above you will also see many numbered folders. Inside each folder are 2 picture files. One picture file contains an image of the front (obverse) of a bank note from another country. The other picture file contains an image of the back (reverse) of that same bank note. Pick one of the folders and open it up. Write the number of the folder at the top of the Part 2 section.

Open the obverse and reverse files one at a time. While each is open, observe things you see about this bank note that are similar to the U.S. bank notes and different from the U.S. bank notes.

In the Part 2 column on the left, make a list of 5 things this bank note has in common with the U.S. bank notes you looked at. In the Part 2 column on the right, make a list of 5 things that are different between the bank notes.

Part 3:

Open the file that has the word "information" in the title. This file explains what you are seeing on the bank note: the names of the people in the pictures and why they are important, the names of any buildings or events shown, and any animals and special symbols that are included.

Now that you have details, think a little more deeply about what you have been observing. Countries show on their bank notes things that the people in charge consider to be important or valued by the people of that country. For example, on many U.S. bank notes, you see pictures of important political figures, like presidents, important events, like the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and symbols, like the eagle.

In the Part 3 column, list 3 things you think are important to the people of the country that uses the bank note you are studying.

For extra credit:

Pretend you are from a country you have just invented. Give the country a name. Draw a bank note that your country would use that shows at least 3 things other people could learn were important or valued about your country. If you have markers or colored pencils at hand, you can color your bank note.

When you have finished, take a picture of or scan your bank note and insert it in the Extra Credit portion of your worksheet. Under the picture, explain the important things.