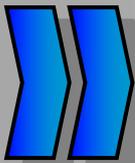


Bartering



Lesson Report

In this lesson, sustainability consultant Jon Walsh outlined to Kenny's grade 5 pupils the huge role **bartering** has had in history, and helped students examine how the inefficiencies of bartering helped lead to the creation of the money system we have today.

First, students learnt about the **history of bartering** and how **animals** and then **crops** were the first major items to be bartered since the practice began at the dawn of humankind. Students then identified the **key inefficiencies** of bartering, namely: 



Students exchange barter coupons.

What did students learn?

- The key role that bartering had in past societies
- How the inefficiencies of the bartering system helped lead to the creation of today's money system
- About the **benefits** of bartering:
 - Get things for free
 - Bartering is useful during recessions
 - Bartering is a great way to recycle and keep items out of the waste stream
 - Convert excess or unwanted goods into another's resource.

FAST FACT

In the U.S. in 2001, more than **\$7.5 billion** worth of goods were exchanged by businesses.



- Both parties need to have something the other wants
- There is no common measure of value
- Certain goods/items cannot be divided
- Some items cannot be easily stored,

and how these inefficiencies (and others) actually led to the creation of the money system we use today.

Students then played a bartering game to learn first-hand how bartering can help us get things we want for free, help people hold onto cash for other more important purposes, and – very importantly – help us reduce resource use and waste streams.

Jon wrapped up the lesson by presenting the idea that if this idea were expanded, hundreds of people could exchange thousands of items, which would be a goldmine for all, slash their trash, and allow the environment to breathe a little easier.



- Personal & business sustainability resources, training and advice
- Urban food production & training
- Garden installation & maintenance

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