

Teacher Resource

Episode 2 16th February 2016

Decimal Currency



FOCUS QUESTIONS

- 1. Briefly summarise the BtN story.
- 2. What was Australia's currency before dollars and cents?
- 3. In which year did the currency change?
- 4. Why did the currency change to the decimal system?
- 5. What percentage of the world's population was using a decimal currency in the early 1960s?
- 6. How did most Australians feel about the change?
- 7. What did the government do to make the change easier?
- 8. Why was the design of the new currency popular with people?
- 9. Give three examples of the names suggested for the new currency.
- 10. What do you understand more clearly since watching the BtN story?



ACTIVITY

What do you see, think and wonder?

After watching the BtN *Decimal Currency* story, respond to the following questions:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What do you THINK about what you saw in this video?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- What was SURPRISING about this story?
- Leave a message in the comments section on the BtN Decimal Currency story page.



KEY LEARNING

Students will investigate the history of the decimal currency system. Students will solve mathematical problems involving decimals.



HASS / Inquiry and skills - Year 5 & 6

Sequence information about people's lives, events, developments and phenomena using a variety of methods including timelines (ACHASSI097)

Mathematics - Year 5

Compare, order and represent decimals (ACMNA105)

Describe, continue and create patterns with fractions, decimals and whole numbers resulting from addition and subtraction (ACMNA107)

Mathematics - Year 6

Connect <u>decimal</u> representations to the metric system (ACMMG135)

Mathematics - Year 7

Round decimals to a specified $\underline{\text{number}}$ of $\underline{\text{decimal}}$ places $\underline{\text{(ACMNA156)}}$



Key facts

Use the BtN story transcript to make a fact sheet about decimal currency. Swap or compare your facts with your classmates. Use the internet to find more facts about the changeover to decimal currency until you have built up a detailed fact file. Alternatively make a quiz and then test your classmates.

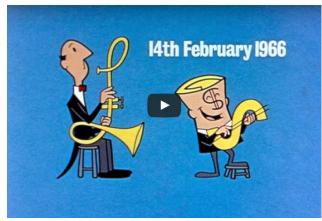




Campaign

There was a huge public education campaign in the year leading up to the change from pounds and shillings to dollars and cents in Australia, including school talks, cartoons, ads and infomercials.

Watch this <u>cartoon</u> as a class. This animated television advertisement was designed to assist Australians with the change from imperial to decimal currency on 14 February 1966. After being shown on television night after night from April 1965 until the beginning of changeover in February 1966, the catchy song was well known by Australians. In September 1965 the Decimal Currency Board reported receiving 500 fan letters from children for Dollar Bill.



Dollar Bill and Australians Keep the Wheels of Industry Turning, Source: National Film sand Sound Archive weblink

- After watching the video discuss in pairs.
 - What are your first thoughts about this video?
 - Write down three things that you learnt about decimal currency.
 - O Why was the new decimal currency introduced?
 - o What questions do you have?
- Make your own poster, blog post or short video explaining how decimal currency works. Provide a
 useful tip, for example, how to round money to the nearest 5 cents.



History - Life in Australia 1966

Students will travel back in time to the 14th of February 1966 when Australia introduced the new decimal currency system. Find some interesting information about what was happening in Australia in the 1960s and present your findings in an interesting way.

- Who was the Prime Minister?
- What was the fashion like?
- What was technology like?
- How much did things cost (for example food, clothes and shoes)? Get started here

Visit these websites to learn more about Australia in the 1960s

- Find out what life in Australia was like in 1966 watch a video from the <u>Life in Australia Series</u> made by the National Film and Sound Archive.
- Visit the <u>ABC's Timeline</u> to find out what was happening at a certain point of time in Australia's history. Scroll across the timeline to learn more about the 1960s.





Working with decimals

- Discuss the meaning of decimal and the origin of the word as a class. Did you know that the word decimal comes from the Latin word decem meaning ten?
- We use decimals every day in the world around us. Our money is based on a decimal system. Decimals are also used to measure height, weight and volume. As a class brainstorm when you would use decimals to measure something?



- Be a decimaster! Learn how to work with decimals by playing one of these <u>ABC Splash interactive</u> games.
- As a class discuss what rounding means? When is rounding useful? Watch this <u>ABC Splash video</u> to see how rounding off can be used. Work through the examples to see when to round down or up, and how many decimal places to use.



Have your say

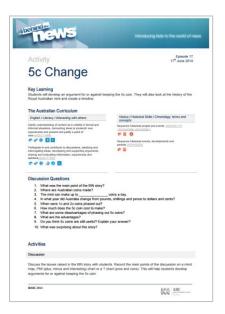
This week's BtN poll is Should the 5c coin be phased out? Hold your own class poll.

Ask students what they think about the idea of getting rid of the 5 cent piece from Australia's currency. Explain to students that there are no right or wrong answers and they should think of reasons for and against the idea.

Record student's ideas on the class whiteboard.

Hold a class debate! Refer to <u>BtN's 5 Cent Change resource</u> for steps on how to run a class debate.









National Museum of Australia – 1966: Switch to Decimal Currency http://www.nma.gov.au/online_features/defining_moments/featured/decimal_currency

ABC 80 days that changed our lives – C-Day: Decimal currency introduced http://www.abc.net.au/archives/80days/stories/2012/01/19/3411470.htm

Reserve Bank of Australia – Pre-Decimal Inflation Calculator http://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html

Youtube - Decimal Currency Advertisement https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZTeWLA1LAs

National Film and Sound Archive – Making Sense of Dollars and Cents: 50 years on http://www.nfsa.gov.au/blog/2016/02/08/making-sense-dollars-and-cents-50-years/

ABC Splash – Decimals http://splash.abc.net.au/home#!/topic/494698/decimals/all



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