



Mini-Unit

What is Cryptocurrency?

Student Activity Packet

MINI-UNIT: CRYPTOCURRENCY

Name:

Students will be able to:

- Explain how currencies get their value
- Describe how cryptocurrency transactions are verified
- Identify how Bitcoin's real-world use differs from its original purpose

NOTE: Vocabulary for this unit can be found in the [NGPF Personal Finance Dictionary](#)



INTRO

QUESTION OF THE DAY: What percentage of Gen Z own cryptocurrency?

Answer the question on the first slide in your Student Activity Packet. Then, follow your teacher's directions on how to answer the follow-up questions.

1. What percentage of Gen Z own cryptocurrency?



LEARN IT

PROMPT: Edubucks Scenario

There's a lot of excitement and questions surrounding cryptocurrency, but before we can understand it, we need to understand where any currency gets its value. Let's start with a classroom example.

Scenario

Imagine your teacher creates 'Edubucks', a classroom currency made from photocopied play money. You can earn Edubucks by completing homework on time, participating in discussions, or helping classmates. You can spend them on homework passes, extra credit, choosing your seat, or snacks from the class snack stand.

- 1. If you wanted more Edubucks, what could you do and how might it change things if other students were willing to trade theirs?**
 - 2. What would happen to the value of Edubucks if your teacher suddenly made 1,000 more of them?**
 - 3. U.S. dollars are an example of fiat money, which means they aren't backed by gold or silver but by trust in the government. Edubucks have value in your classroom because of the rules you all agree on. Where does Bitcoin get its value?**
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VIDEO: [Cryptocurrency Explained](#)

How does Bitcoin actually work without a government or bank backing it? Watch the video to learn about the technology behind cryptocurrency and how transactions are verified. Then, answer the questions.

- 1. How is cryptocurrency different from government-issued currency?**
 - 2. How is a transaction verified on a cryptocurrency network?**
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ARTICLE: [Bitcoin's Original Plan vs. Today's Reality](#)

Is Bitcoin being used the way it was designed? The story of Bitcoin isn't just about blockchain and mining, it's about whether a revolutionary idea lived up to its original promise. Read the article to discover how Bitcoin's reality compares to its creator's vision. Then, answer the questions.

1. Bitcoin was originally designed for people to buy directly from each other. Why do you think most people now buy through exchanges like Coinbase instead
2. Based on what you've learned, do you think calling Bitcoin "digital gold" or "digital cash" is more accurate? Explain your reasoning.



DO IT

ACTIVITY: [PROJECT: The Crypto Times](#)

Cryptocurrency started as an online experiment. Today, it's reshaped how we think about money and investing. You're the reporter. Your job: dig into the past and build a newspaper front page from a key time period in crypto history.



EXIT TICKET

Follow your teacher's directions to complete the Exit Ticket.