

Lesson 13  
READ THIS STORY #2, Advanced

## Money

**Governments have issued paper currency, which can be used to pay for goods and services, since the eleventh century.**

**Paper money must be durable. Paper bills in the United States are made with a special paper that is filled with cotton fibers and plastic threads. The process is secret, so that it cannot be copied easily. Making a copy of paper money with the intent to defraud someone is a crime called forgery. To reduce forgery, governments change the look and configuration of our paper bills from time to time.**

**Coins are made by a process called minting. There is more than one mint in the United States. If you look carefully at the face of a coin, you will find one small capital letter which indicates the location of the mint where that coin was made.**

**During wartime, coins and bills may lose their value. People living in countries that are occupied by enemy armies often are not allowed to use their own money. Even soldiers stationed away from home frequently receive army scrip instead of money. Many people invest in gold and jewelry to avoid devaluation of their currency.**

**Countries try not to spend more than they collect in taxes. If they do, they either have to borrow from the World Bank, or print more of their own money. But printing more lowers the value of their currency, which upsets global trade, and can create pandemonium in the international monetary system.**