

Teaching notes

Learning objectives:

- to know about practical uses of money
- to understand barter and exchange.

Resources:

- text about Barterville (p.3) – to be read out loud to the class
- 'I have ... I need ...' cards (pp.4–12) – one card per student and one for yourself
- class set of scissors
- PowerPoint slide (downloadable from www.teachitcitizenship.co.uk by searching for 23292).

Starter

Read the out the **text about Barterville**. Check students' understanding by asking them to think-pair-share how Barterville is different from where they live.

Main activity

Give each student an **'I have ... I need ...' card** and take one yourself. Point out that the picture on the right shows what they need and the pictures on the left show what they have. Ask them to cut down the dotted lines so that the pictures on the left will be easy to tear off.

Explain that they are going to swap the things they have in order to get what they need.

Choose a confident student to come to the front and begin the exchange with you. They should show their cards to the class and announce what they have and need. Make sure you have incompatible cards (e.g. I have fish; I want a coat + I have shoes; I want wood).

You obviously won't be able to swap with each other. Ask the class to discuss with their partners what they could do in this situation. Hopefully someone will realise that a chain of exchanges could lead to the student getting what they want.

The student can now start the exchange chain going by finding someone who needs fish. They should tear off a fish to swap with the next student. The next student takes the fish and gives the first student one of the items they have to swap by tearing it off, e.g. a sheep. The first student then continues to make exchanges with people in the class. Time the length of the exchanges so that you can then reveal how long the whole process took.

Repeat as many times as you like, with a different student starting each time.

Reflection

Ask students to imagine doing the exchange activity in a large village or town. What problems could there be?

Suggested answers:

- You might have to visit a lot of people/houses for the chain of exchanges.
- Two or three people might have the same item to exchange and you wouldn't know who to swap with.

Show students the **PowerPoint slide** and ask them to discuss the questions.

Encourage them to think about the work that has gone into producing each item, e.g. the time and watering to growing a sack of tomatoes or the time and manual work put into making one hammer or a screwdriver.

PowerPoint questions:

Look at the exchanges below. Do you think they are fair?

1. A fish for a sheep.
2. A bag of rice for a goat.
3. A loaf of bread for an aubergine.
4. A screwdriver for a bag of tomatoes.
5. A saucepan for a sack of potatoes.

What would you want in each situation?

Explain that the activity was carried out as a simple exchange of one item for another. Bartering systems often involve a discussion, lengthy haggling or possibly even a full-blown argument about the value of the items. For example, someone might want a whole sack of fish for one sheep. You might agree that a sheep is more valuable than one fish, but you might not want to hand over a whole sack of fish. Perhaps half a sack would be a better deal.

Plenary

Ask students to list the pros and cons of the exchange and barter system.

Suggested answers:

Pros	Cons
Everybody can get what they need as long as they have something to exchange.	The chain of exchange can take a long time. There is no fixed system for deciding what is a fair exchange.
Nobody can scrounge off other people if they don't have something to offer in exchange.	It can be hard to have enough of one thing to exchange for another. For example, you might not be able to produce enough fish to exchange for a whole coat, but half a coat is no use to anyone.
It encourages a close-knit community where everybody speaks to each other and shares with each other.	Some items go off and others don't. This is also a problem for exchanging items like fish and coats.
There is no divide between rich and poor, as everybody needs each other's produce in order to survive.	Some items won't be ready until the autumn, so some people may have to wait a long time for what they are owed.
No one feels they have paid too much, as they negotiate how much they exchange.	Tomatoes ripen in early summer but oats aren't There is no system for supporting people who can't work to produce something.
There is little waste, as people produce just the amount their community needs.	

Barterville

It is 200 years into the future, and plentiful electricity and petrol are a thing of the past. Now, rather than riding around in hover cars and wearing silver suits as they imagined, the people of Europe have returned to an older way of living.

Supermarkets and department stores have disappeared. The transportation of goods on a large scale is now impossible. As a result, money has become worthless. In this new world, some of the most valuable items are horses and bicycles.

But it's not all doom and gloom. For example, in the delightful seaside village of Barterville some people are great at growing vegetables. Sadly, many haven't got the first idea about gardening, but a few know how to cut and sew cloth. Others are expert at spending days out at sea fishing. That's good because most people in the village only have to step onto a boat and they get seasick. Luckily, some of these landlubbers are excellent at woodwork and can whip up a set of table and chairs in no time. Another group of villagers has learned how to look after animals like chickens and cows, which is handy because most people can't bear the smell of the barn on a hot summer's day.

Everyone has a skill in Barterville and if they work together they can all have what they need and maybe a few of the little luxuries they want.

'I have ... I need ...' cards – set 1

fish	I need ... a coat	a coat	I need ... onions
fish		a coat	
fish		a coat	
onions	I need ... rope	rope	I need ... a bucket
onions		rope	
onions		rope	
bucket	I need ... milk	milk	I need ... nails
bucket		milk	
bucket		milk	
nails	I need ... a chicken	a chicken	I need ... a knife
nails		a chicken	
nails		a chicken	
a knife	I need ... a sheep	a sheep	I need ... fish
a knife		a sheep	
a knife		a sheep	

'I have ... I need ...' cards – set 2

rice	I need ... shoes	shoes	I need ... wood
rice		shoes	
rice		shoes	
wood	I need ... eggs	eggs	I need ... butter
wood		eggs	
wood		eggs	
butter	I need ... aubergines	aubergines	I need ... bread
butter		aubergines	
butter		aubergines	
bread	I need ... tomatoes	tomatoes	I need ... a screwdriver
bread		tomatoes	
bread		tomatoes	
a screwdriver	I need ... a goat	a goat	I need ... rice
a screwdriver		a goat	
a screwdriver		a goat	

'I have ... I need ...' cards – set 3

beans	I need ... vegetable oil	vegetable oil	I need ... a hammer
beans		vegetable oil	
beans		vegetable oil	
a hammer	I need ... a cloth	a cloth	I need ... meat
a hammer		a cloth	
a hammer		a cloth	
meat	I need ... oats	oats	I need ... a cow
meat		oats	
meat		oats	
a cow	I need ... potatoes	potatoes	I need ... a saucepan
a cow		potatoes	
a cow		potatoes	
a saucepan	I need ... a hat	a hat	I need ... beans
a saucepan		a hat	
a saucepan		a hat	