


Understanding Australian bank notes (Year 1)

 30-45 mins

Learn about Australian bank notes, their features and value. This resource has been adapted from the unit of work: [Bertie's socks](#).

Outcomes

Students:

- Describe the features of Australian coins and notes
- Identify simple amounts using coins.
- Formulate simple questions and gather responses.

Curriculum links

Mathematics

- Recognise, describe and order Australian coins according to their value (ACMNA017)

English

- Engage in conversations and discussions, using active listening behaviours, showing interest, and contributing ideas, information and questions (ACELY1656)

Other resources

- Unit of work: [Bertie's socks](#).
- Digital resource: [Bertie's socks digibook](#)
- Digital resource: [Pay the price](#)
- Digital resource: [Money match](#)

Discovery (30 mins)

Activities can be deducted by either discussion or using the attached worksheets.

1. Physical money

Students consider the following questions about shopping and share their responses:

- Do you have a piggybank? How much money have you saved? What do you like to buy?
- How many different ways can adults access cash? (eg from their wallet, ATM, change at the shop).

2. Exploring bank notes

Encourage students to engage with the features of bank notes.

This activity could be done using Australian notes or using **Worksheet 1**.

- Describe each note, one feature at a time (colours, people, plants, animals, plastic material, etc).
- Hold the note up to the light – what things do you see?
- Ask students why the notes are made from plastic and not paper.
- Get students to feel the note above the hologram – can they feel the dot indents? Are they different on each note? What do they think the dots are used for?
- Get one student to describe a note while another student tries to identify the note based on the description.
- Use the **RBA website** to find out who the famous Australians are on each bank note. Look for clues on the note (eg. the \$20 has an image of a plane and [Reverend John Flynn](#), Royal Flying Doctor Service).
- Test their memory - can they remember which note belongs to which colour?

3. Exploring note value

Teach students about the value of each Australian notes.

- Place all the Australian notes in a row, from smallest to largest in size.
 - Does the size relate to the increasing value?
- What is the total value when you add up all the Australian notes?
- Group notes together and ask students what they add up to (**Worksheet 2**).

Get practical (15 mins)

- Students design their own note – maybe they can introduce a new Australian note! What colour and value would it be? What people and animals will it have?
- Find notes from different countries (Google images). Do they have pictures of animals or people on them? Are the animals different to ones in Australia? Why?

Worksheet 1: Australian bank notes (not to scale)



Worksheet 2: Addition activity

	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	
	+		=	