

What's happening in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

30th March - 5th April 2026

Bank of England

I PROMISE TO PAY THE BEARER ON DEMAND THE SUM OF TWENTY POUNDS



What should represent a country?

Twenty P

£10

This week's story looks at events related to ...



What should represent a country?



The Bank of England, that designs and makes the UK's banknotes, has said that future notes will include British wildlife, such as animals or plants, instead of historical figures. At the moment, UK banknotes feature the British monarch on the front and well-known people from history on the back. However, some believe the back of banknotes should instead celebrate nature, showing animals, birds, or plants that live in the UK.

Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).



Do you have an emotional response you would like to share?



sad

despondent
disconsolate
dismal
doleful
downhearted
forlorn
gloomy
melancholic
miserable
woeful
wretched

angry

aggrieved
annoyed
discontented
disgruntled
distressed
exasperated
frustrated
indignant
offended
outraged
resentful
vexed

happy

beaming
buoyant
cheery
contented
delighted
enraptured
gleeful
glowing
joyful

confused

addled
baffled
bemused
bewildered
disorientated
indistinct
muddled
mystified
perplexed
puzzled

excited

animated
elevated
enlivened
enthusiastic
exhilarated
exuberant
thrilled

worried

agitated
anxious
apprehensive
concerned
disquieted
distraught
distressed
disturbed
fretful
perturbed
troubled
uneasy

overwhelmed

engulfed
inundated
overburdened
overloaded
saturated
submerged
swamped

afraid

alarmed
apprehensive
daunted
fearful
frantic
horrified
petrified
terrified

guilty

ashamed
compunctious
contrite
culpable
penitent
responsible
rueful

jealous

bitter
covetous
desirous
envious
envying
resentful
wary

thankful

appreciative
grateful
gratified
indebted
obliged
relieved

shocked

astonished
astounded
disconcerted
distressed
dumbfounded
horrified
staggered
startled
stunned
surprised

disgusted

affronted
appalled
horrified
repelled
repulsed
revolted
sickened

inspired

activated
encouraged
exhilarated
galvanised
influenced
motivated

embarrassed

ashamed
awkward
chagrined
demeaned
discomposed
humiliated
self-conscious
uncomfortable
uneasy
unsettled

interested

absorbed
captivated
curious
engaged
enthralled
fascinated
gripped
intrigued
riveted



Questions

- Think about this week's story and share any initial thoughts or ideas. If you had to choose an image to represent you, what would you choose? Why?
- Is it possible to represent a country in a single image? How?
- Why is it important to feel represented?





- Is representation more powerful when it shows our history and heritage, or when it shows our modern lives and communities? Why do you think this?
- When we move away from human history, we often turn to the environment and natural world. What are some pros and cons of using wildlife and landscapes instead of historical figures on banknotes?
- Beyond portraits and wildlife, what other images could be used on banknotes? Why?
- If you were tasked with redesigning a banknote today, what images would you choose? Why are these significant?





Vital statistics

According to the Bank of England, there are over 4.7 billion Bank of England notes in circulation. Together, they are worth about £86 billion.

Is this surprising? Why?



Research from NatWest suggests that one in 12 (8%) people still use physical cash 'all of the time'. However, three-quarters (76%) of those who favour digital payments say they still carry cash for emergencies.

How do you pay for things? Why do you use this method?





What others think

Read through and discuss the meaning of the two quotes below.

"You can't be what you can't see." Marian Wright Edelman, activist for civil rights and children's rights.

"We can't be for representation and inclusion, without representation and inclusion." Laphonza Butler, politician and senator.

Do you agree with these quotes? Why?

Further questions for discussion



- Since many people now pay using phones or watches, does it even matter what is printed on banknotes anymore? Why?
- If physical money disappears, where else can a country's identity be shown?





What should represent a country?

Twenty
£

Reflection



Different countries use their money to celebrate many things, from important leaders and inventors to animals and cultural symbols. Considering what appears on something like money can help us reflect on what matters to us, and what we want future generations to remember.

Media Literacy

I can tell the difference between fact and opinion.



Explanation: Let's look at some of the differences between facts and opinions.



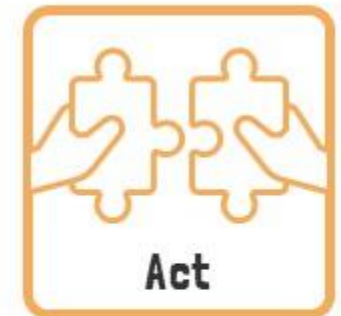
Analyse



Evaluate



Research



Act

Questions to Discuss

- What is the difference between a fact and an opinion?
- Which do you think is more trustworthy? Why?
- Can facts and opinions change? How?

Activity

Look at the two sentences below taken from this week's news story. Decide which is a fact and which is an opinion, and why.

- "Bosses at the Bank may feel they are less likely to face a backlash with choices of wildlife."
- "Nature was the most popular theme in the 44,000 responses to a public consultation and focus groups on banknote imagery."



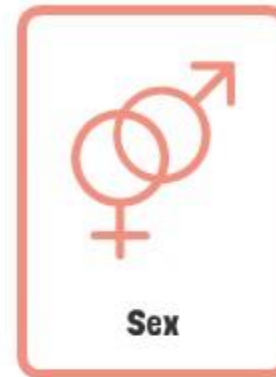
Democracy

To show democracy in action, the Bank of England gave everyone a say by voting for their favourite theme. The bank chose nature because it was the most popular choice among the public.

Protected Characteristics



Putting wildlife on banknotes shows that protecting our planet is a shared duty for everyone, no matter what religion or belief they have. It helps everyone to feel included because nature is something we all share.



Sex



Sexual
Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender
Reassignment



Marriage and
Civil Partnership



Pregnancy
and Maternity



Race



Religion
or Belief



UN Rights of the Child



Using wildlife to represent the UK, instead of historical figures, shows children that nature is an important part of our national identity and that we have a responsibility to protect the environment.



Cross Curricular Links



This week's story explores the importance of representation.



Who Does This Work?



Job of the Week

Financial Adviser

Financial advisers help both people and organisations choose and understand investments, savings, pensions, mortgages, and insurance products.

Did you know?

According to The Guardian Jobs, the sector is still struggling with inclusion and diversity. However, initiatives from the Financial Conduct Authority and groups like Women in Banking and Finance are working to address this.



Pathways Into This Career

- Undergraduate degree in any subject or a finance/business related subject.
- Level 4 or 6 related subject Apprenticeship.
- Career progression through an entry level role such as admin/customer service and further study in Level 4 qualifications recognised by the Financial Conduct Authority.



Skills Needed

- Ability to interpret financial markets and build financial plans.
- Strong IT skills.
- Exceptional verbal communication and active listening, to identify customer needs and persuasively sell relevant products and services.
- High attention to detail.
- Planning and management skills.



Discussion Prompt

Should a financial adviser encourage a client to invest in a company that makes a lot of money but has a lack of representation within its leadership roles? Why?

Explore this role further in this week's Career Connection Activity.

LET'S DISCUSS

30th March
- 5th April



This week's news story

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4geyyg9en6o>

This week's useful video

www.youtube.com/shorts/t5pBVKctQmw



44 Frames/Shutterstock

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Notes

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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- > Why is it important to feel represented?
- > Is representation more powerful when it shows our history and heritage, or when it shows our modern lives and communities? Why do you think this?
- > When we move away from human history, we often turn to the environment and natural world. What are some pros and cons of using wildlife and landscapes instead of historical figures on banknotes?
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Vital statistics

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- > Research for NatWest suggests that one in 12 (8%) people still use physical cash "all of the time.". However, three-quarters (76%) of those who favour digital payments say they still carry cash for emergencies. How do you pay for things? Why do you use this method?

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 **Listen**

 **Think**

 **Share**

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Additional Activities



Cross Curricular Link Activity

This activity encourages pupils to critically evaluate the historical figures on current UK banknotes, and then collaborate to design a new symbol of currency that more inclusively reflects the diverse identity of a modern nation.

- Start by displaying images of current banknotes (e.g., the UK £5, £10, £20 and £50).

Think about: Do you recognise any of these people? Who are they? Why do you think they might have been included on the currency? Do you think the collection of banknotes accurately represents all the people who make up modern Britain? Why?

- In groups, discuss what images and symbols could be used to represent your modern nation. You may wish to consider architecture, people, wildlife, innovation, culture or food.
- Reflect on whether these images and symbols successfully represent everyone and how.
- Design an image or symbol for a new banknote. Your design must reflect the theme of modern identity and representation.
- Write a letter to the Bank of England explaining why your design should be selected.



Careers Connection Activity

This activity encourages pupils to act as financial advisers by teaching them how to balance a client's savings goals with their personal happiness to create a practical budget.

- *Alex is 19 and has just started their first job and is panicked because they have £0 left at the end of every month.*

Alex's monthly profile:

- Income (take-home pay): £1,500.
- Fixed costs (must pay): rent (£600), phone bill (£40), transport (£120).
- Variable costs (choices): eating out (£300), new clothes (£200), gym membership (£50), streaming services (£40), groceries (£250).

In groups, you are going to act as Alex's financial adviser. Your goal is to help Alex save £200 a month for a summer holiday while still being able to enjoy life.

The rules:

- Fixed costs cannot be changed (they are contracts).
- Variable costs can be cut, reduced, or swapped for cheaper alternatives.

Remember, if you cut all enjoyment spending to £0, Alex will stop trying to budget.

Then, rewrite Alex's budget.

Example: Suggest Alex cancels the £50 gym membership and runs in the park for free.

Think about: Which change was the easiest to make with the biggest impact? Why? Is there something you would like to save for? How might you go about it?

