

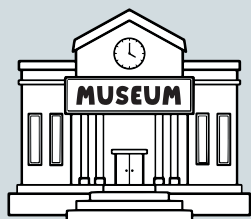
MONEY MATTERS

THE HISTORY OF THE LARGEST U.S. BILL

Did you know the largest denomination of U.S. currency ever printed for public circulation was the \$10,000 Federal Reserve note? Although it was available to the public, the \$10,000 bill was not intended for people to take the grocery store but rather as an easy way for banks to transfer large sums of money to other banks and financial institutions before wire transfers of money were safe and common.

By the 1950s, electronic transfers of money by computer were the norm rather than a physical exchange of cash. So in 1969, all bills larger than the \$100 bill were discontinued by the Department of Treasury and the Federal Reserve System due to lack of use.

These bills (\$500, \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000) are still legal tender but it is very rare to find them in circulation today. Most are thought to be in the hands of private collectors.



WANT TO LEARN MORE MONEY HISTORY?

Visit the U.S. Mint Coin Classroom (kids.usmint.gov) where you can play games, watch videos, and explore how coins are designed, produced, and used!

MONEY FACTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE PENNY?

The penny has been part of our U.S. currency for over 230 years. The first U.S. penny was made in 1793, and it has featured several designs over the years. Since 1909, pennies have proudly shown Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, making it the first coin to feature a real person!




Although these little coins are special, they've become expensive to produce. According to the U.S. Mint, it now costs about 3.7 cents to make a penny, which is more than its actual value! Because of this, the government has slowed production of pennies for general use in recent years and on November 12, 2025, The U.S. Mint ended production completely. That means there will be fewer pennies in circulation, and you might notice them becoming rarer in your change.

Even though pennies are less common, they're still legal money and a fun way to save. Many kids collect pennies in jars or piggy banks, and over time, even these small coins can add up to something big!



TIPS FOR CARRYING CASH

Nowadays, we use digital forms of money more than ever but cash is still important. If you need to bring cash to school for lunch or an after school activity, here's how to carry your cash wisely:

-  Keep it in a safe spot. Use a wallet, purse, or zip pocket—never loose in your backpack.
-  Don't carry more than you need. A few \$1s, \$5s, and \$10s are easier to use (and safer than flashing big bills).
-  Count it before you spend it. Always know how much you have so you don't lose track.

Pennies and paper bills may not seem as exciting as digital wallets and payment apps, but learning to keep your cash safe and secure shows responsibility. It's a small habit that helps you build trust in yourself and confidence in how you handle money — no matter what form it comes in!



Want to learn more?

We want to answer your questions! After asking your parents' permission, write to us at marketing@altairadvisers.com and tell us the money questions and issues you would like to see covered in the next edition of Money Matters.

See disclosures at the end of the document

STOCK MARKET 101

WHAT'S UP WITH ALL THE BULL AND THE BEAR MARKET TALK?

If you live in Chicago during the fall and winter season, you'll probably hear a lot about the Bulls and the Bears. But did you know these names also show up in the world of money? When you hear the news say that "it's a bull market" or "it's a bear market," they're not talking about football or basketball teams—they're actually using nicknames to describe how the stock market is doing.



Bull Market = Prices Are Charging Up

A bull market happens when stock prices are increasing over an extended time period. People feel confident, excited, and are buying more stock. It's called a bull market because bulls attack by thrusting their horns upward—just like the stock market is moving up! Think of it like when the Chicago Bulls go on a winning streak—fans are cheering, the energy is high, and everyone wants to be part of it.

Bear Market = Prices Are Clawing Down

A bear market happens when stock prices are falling over an extended time frame. People get nervous, and often there are more people selling stocks than buying. It's called a "bear" market because bears swipe their paws downward—just like the stock market is sliding! Think of it like the Chicago Bears having a tough season: fans are worried, energy slows down, and people may feel cautious about buying tickets to the game.

The stock market is always moving—sometimes it's charging up like a bull, and sometimes it's swiping down like a bear. Prices go up and down all the time, just like a game with wins and losses. That's why it's important to remember that ups and downs are a normal part of investing.

KNOWLEDGE CHECK!

Which one of these statements describe a bear market?

- A) Stock prices are falling and people are excited
- B) Stock prices are rising and people are worried
- C) Stock prices are falling and people are worried
- D) Stock prices are rising and people is excited

TEEN CORNER:

BUY NOW, PAY LATER:

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU TAP “CONFIRM”

The holidays are coming — and so are the sales. With so many “last-minute deals” and “must-have gifts,” it’s easy to feel the pressure to buy now and figure out payment later. Apps like Klarna, Afterpay, and Affirm make buying expensive items tempting, letting you split a purchase into smaller payments instead of paying all at once. But before you tap “confirm,” make sure you know exactly what you are signing up for.

Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) apps basically give you a short-term loan. Say you want to buy a pair of sneakers for \$100. The BNPL provider pays for the purchase up front and then you pay off that amount to the BNPL service in smaller payments - think four payments of \$25 every two weeks. As long as you make the payment on time, there’s usually no interest. But if you miss a payment, you could get hit with late fees or even hurt your credit score.

When the payments seem smaller, it’s easy to spend more than you planned. Multiple BNPL purchases can add up fast—especially if you lose track of when each payment is due. You may end up juggling several payment plans at once without realizing how much you really owe. Plus, BNPL apps don’t always offer the same protections as credit cards, meaning there are fewer ways to dispute a charge or get a refund if something goes wrong.

BEFORE YOU USE THESE APPS, ASK YOURSELF:

- Do I really need this item right now, or is it just a want?
- Can I pay for it in full today if I had to?
- Could I wait and save up for this item instead?

Thinking through your choices also helps you spot impulse buys that seem great in the moment but might not fit your budget. Remember, BNPL might feel like a low-cost way to get what you want, but it’s still borrowing money that you have to pay back.

Saving first, shopping within your budget, and pacing yourself with gifts can make the holiday season much more enjoyable — and keep your future self free from surprise payments and unnecessary stress.



PARENT'S CORNER:

TEACHING GRATITUDE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The holidays can be a perfect time to help kids practice gratitude. Simple traditions like making a list of things they're thankful for, writing thank-you notes or reflecting on acts of kindness can teach kids to appreciate what they have rather than just focus on what they want. Gratitude helps children understand the value of giving and strengthens empathy, which can reduce entitlement and overconsumption. Parents can model this by talking openly about what they're grateful for, involving kids in charitable activities like donating toys, volunteering at a local shelter, or helping bake treats for neighbors.

You can also create small daily rituals, such as sharing a favorite moment from the day at dinner or keeping a "gratitude jar" where each family member drops notes about what they appreciate. Even conversations about appreciating friends, teachers, or community members can make a big impact. Encouraging these habits early helps kids carry a mindset of gratitude and generosity far beyond the holiday season.

RAISING BALANCED CHILDREN: RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

Families of significant wealth often face unique questions around how and when to introduce financial education. To support these conversations, we've created our Raising Balanced Children Guide, a curated sourcebook of recommended books, activities, and resources for children and young adults.

It's designed to help families have thoughtful, age-appropriate conversations about finances, responsibility, gratitude, and the opportunities and challenges that come with family wealth.

Whether your child is 5 or 25, the guide offers practical tools to help foster financial literacy, confidence, and independence at every stage.

View the full digital guide by visiting our website at altairadvisers.com or scanning the QR code.



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