Exposición temporal

¿10 preguntas sobre el dinero

Edición infantil

MUSEO BANCO DE MÉXICO

Introduction

In Mexico, what questions do children have about money?
We received more than fifteen hundred questions and discovered that there is a great deal of curiosity.

The exhibition was developed based on Money in Ten Questions: Kids Edition, presented in 2023 by the Bank of Canada Museum. Thanks to the exchange with their team, we were able to adapt a range of approaches, activities, and contents to the Mexican context, while also developing new original elements. We drew on their participatory methodology, which gathers questions from children, and adjusted their interactive modules using information from Mexico.

Banco de México
The primary responsibility of Banco de México is to ensure that money preserves its value over time. In addition, it ensures that money reaches every part of the country (by issuing banknotes and coins), helps keep the financial system running smoothly, and makes sure that electronic payments are secure and processed swiftly.

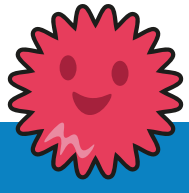
1. What can you do with money?

Money is part of many moments of your everyday life: it is a tool that makes it easier to obtain things—such as the clothes you wear, the bike you ride, the books you read, your next trip to the movies, or yesterday's meal.

2. What was money like in ancient times?

Throughout history, many different objects have been used as money: tea, shells, cacao, and even beans.
This type of money is known as commodity money, as it was not only used for payment, but could also be used for other purposes. Some items could be used as tools or even be made into beverages.

Can you imagine paying with beans or cacao?



Money changes over time and becomes easier to use.
People's needs change over time, and money has evolved as well. Today, technology offers new ways to make payments.
How do you think we will pay in the future?

Electronic money: This is the money held in our bank accounts. We do not see it physically, yet we can use it to make payments.

3. Is money hard to manage?

Not at all! It is really a matter of thinking before you act.
You decide when and what to spend on.
We all have things we need and things we want. But before deciding how to get them, ask yourself: Do you think it through and choose what is best for you, or do you let your impulses take control?
It is like when you ride a bike: Do you pedal without direction, or do you choose when to brake, speed up, or turn?

TIP: Making a thoughtful decision means looking at different options, comparing prices, and asking yourself whether you need something right now or if it can wait. In other words, thinking calmly before choosing.

4. Why do we earn money by working?

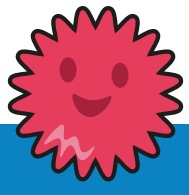
Money does not grow on trees; it represents the time and effort people put into their work. When you buy a bicycle, you are paying for the work of the people who designed it, and of those who made the handlebars, the wheels, and every other part.
How can you earn money?
At almost any age, you can find ways to earn your own money by doing things you enjoy.
Entrepreneur: A person who starts their own business by using their skills or by creating new products.

5. How can I decide what to spend my money on?

It all depends on our goals, and planning ahead helps us achieve them.
A budget is a plan for your money. If you know how and how often you receive money, and you also keep track of how you spend it, you'll be able to plan how to reach a financial goal.

First, think about what you need or want, and how much it costs.
Then, figure out how much money you have or can earn—this is called income.
From that amount, subtract the purchases you make regularly—this is called expense.
A budget must be balanced, which means you cannot spend more money than you receive.

Financial goal: The amount of money you need to buy something or do something in the future. Reaching your goal may mean cutting back on some expenses.



6. Why do banknotes have so many different images?

Because every element is there for a reason! Banknotes are like tiny works of art that tell stories about who we are. Besides their images, they incorporate special technologies that make them secure and easy to recognize—even for people with visual disabilities. All of this is part of the design process that Banco de México develops, working with experts and listening to people's opinions.

Over time, banknotes change and get updated. When a group of banknotes is designed with similar features, we call it a "family."

Images that represent us.
Mexican banknotes show people, historical moments, landscapes, cities, animals, plants, and colors that reflect our culture.

National currency: The official money of a country or region. It can include coins, banknotes, or electronic money. In Mexico, our national currency is the Mexican peso.

7. Does money have a price?

Yes! Money has a price, and it is called interest. That is, the cost of moving money over time.

When you save, a bank or another financial institution gives you a small additional amount for keeping your money safe and not spending it right away. Over time, your money grows.

When you borrow money, you receive money today and pay it back later. In the future, you will pay back more money than you originally received.

Interest: The amount you earn when you save, or the amount you pay when you borrow.

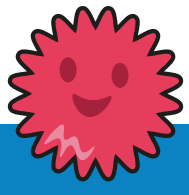
Did you know there is a way for your money to work for you? It is called compound interest.

When you save, a financial institution pays you interest not only on the money you put in, but also on the interest you have already earned. For example, if you put $100 into an account that pays 5% interest, at the end of the year you will have $105. The following year, the bank will pay 5% on those $105, and you will end with $110.25. You are earning interest on both the initial amount and on the interest you have previously received.

If you borrow $100 at a 5% interest rate, after one year you will owe $105. The next year, the bank will charge 5% on those $105, and you will owe $110.25.

Save or borrow?

Imagine you want a bicycle but do not have enough money.



You have two choices:

Saving: Set the money aside little by little and earn interest. You wait a bit longer to get your bike, but you receive a reward—and you might even have enough to buy yourself a helmet. You wait, but you pay less.

Borrowing: You get the bike today, but you pay more later. How long would it take you to repay it? You enjoy it now, but pay more in the end.

It all depends on why you need the bike. If it is just for riding around, you can save and wait. If you need it for a project, you might need it right away

Loan: Money you borrow today and must pay back in the future, usually with interest.

8. Where does money go?

Every time you pay for something, that money goes to someone else. When that person uses it, it moves again... and it keeps on traveling.

Money circulates from hand to hand and from one business to another. For this reason, people often say it works like the energy that keeps the economy moving.

Economy: The way people, businesses, and governments organize their money, resources, and time to attain the things they need and want.

9. Where and how are banknotes made?

Banknotes are produced in the factories of Banco de México, located in Mexico City and Guadalajara. Their manufacturing process is highly sophisticated: they are printed in several stages using special materials and inks. In each stage, new elements are added to make them safer and easier to identify, such as colors, textures, and other security features. At the end of the process, each banknote is given its own unique number.

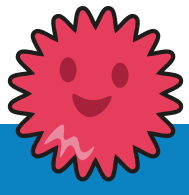
Issuance: Putting banknotes and coins into circulation.

10. Why do prices change?

Imagine a market. There you find people who want to sell things (supply) and people who want to buy things (demand).
Sellers hope to get the highest price they can for their products. Buyers seek the opposite: to pay the lowest price possible for what they need.

Supply and demand change for varied reasons, and therefore prices change constantly.

Why do things keep getting more expensive?
Sometimes it is because of inflation. Have you heard that word before? Inflation is when most prices rise over a period of time.

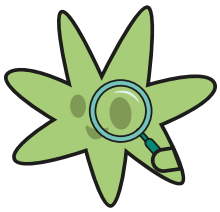


With the same amount of money, you can buy fewer things, and planning becomes more difficult because you do not know how much things will cost later.
There is also high inflation, and when it gets extremely high, it is called hyperinflation.

What happens when prices rise out of control?
A) You can buy fewer things.
B) It becomes harder to plan.

And the same happens to companies, businesses, and governments.
When inflation is very high and out of control, planning expenses, investing, or hiring workers becomes very difficult.

The main goal of Banco de México is to ensure that inflation remains low and stable.



Before creating this exhibition, we wanted to know what questions children in Mexico had about money.
So, we placed sheets of paper and collection boxes in museums, schools, and other spaces around the country, with a very simple invitation:

"Write your question about money."

We collected more than 1,600 questions. They were very interesting, funny... and many of them were similar.

We read every single one, sorted them into groups to see which ones talked about related topics.

With the information we collected in Mexico—and with what the Bank of Canada had previously done—we answered the 10 questions that make up this exhibition.

For each question, we built a special module. We also tested them by showing the activities to children like you.

We hope you enjoyed the exhibition, and we would love to keep the conversation going.

Tell us: Have you ever had questions about money? Are they similar to the ones covered in the exhibition? Do you have different ones?
Share them with us!

