

Georgia Standards of Excellence

The Georgia Standards of Excellence for Social Studies for Grades 6-8 include various standards that can align with your currency unit.

Key standards relevant to this unit are:

1. GRADE 6 ECONOMIC UNDERSTANDINGS:

- **SS6E1:** Analysis of different economic systems.
- **SS6E2:** Examples of how voluntary trade benefits buyers and sellers in Latin America.
- **SS6E3:** Description of factors influencing economic growth in Brazil, Cuba, and Mexico.
- **SS6E5:** Examples of how voluntary trade benefits buyers and sellers in Canada.
- **SS6E6:** Factors influencing economic growth in Canada.

2. GRADE 7 ECONOMIC UNDERSTANDINGS:

- **SS7E1:** Analysis of different economic systems.
- **SS7E2:** Explanation of how voluntary trade benefits buyers and sellers in Africa.
- **SS7E3:** Description of factors influencing economic growth in Nigeria, South Africa, and Kenya.
- **SS7E4:** Analysis of different economic systems in Southwest Asia (Middle East).
- **SS7E5:** Explanation of how voluntary trade benefits buyers and sellers in Southwest Asia.
- **SS7E6:** Description of factors influencing economic growth in Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.

3. GRADE 8 ECONOMIC UNDERSTANDINGS:

- **SS8E1:** Explanation of personal finance choices and their impact.
- **SS8E2:** Analysis of Georgia's economic growth and development.
- **SS8E3:** Explanation of the role of government in Georgia's economy.

Lesson Plan Outline

Currency Unit

DAY 1

INTRODUCTION TO WORLD CURRENCIES

Objective: Introduce students to various world currencies.

Activities:

- Presentation on different currencies
- Discussion on the history and significance of currencies.
- Choose a country and research its currency.

DAY 2

CURRENCY DESIGN AND SYMBOLISM

Objective: Understand the design and symbolism in currencies

Activities:

- Group discussion on the symbolism in the designs of the chosen currencies.
- Interactive session comparing the designs and symbols of various currencies.
- Create a poster of the chosen currency, highlighting its design and symbols.

DAY 3

CURRENCY EXCHANGE AND GLOBAL ECONOMY

Objective: Learn about currency exchange and its impact on the global economy.

Activities:

- Discussion on currency exchange rates
- Practical exercise on converting currencies.
- Calculate the value of a set budget in the chosen currency.

DAY 4

BUDGETING AND PLANNING FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Objective: Apply knowledge of currencies in a real-world context.

Activities:

- Group activity: Plan a trip using the chosen currency.
- Discussion on budgeting for travel and currency considerations.
- Finalize the travel plan and budget.

DAY 5

PRESENTATION AND REFLECTION

Objective: Present findings and reflect on the learning experience.

Activities:

- Students present their travel plans and budgets.
- Reflection session on what was learned about different currencies.
- Group discussion on the importance of understanding global currencies.

DAY 1

Introduction to World Currencies



OBJECTIVES

1. Students will be introduced to various world currencies.
2. Students will learn about the historical and cultural significance of currencies.
3. Students will develop research skills.



MATERIALS

- Handouts with each country's currency facts
- World map



INTRODUCTION

- Begin with a brief interactive discussion: Ask students what they know about different world currencies.
- Show a world map and have students name a few countries and their currencies.



CURRENCY FACTS SHEET

- Present the handout(s) on each country's currency, highlighting their design, value, and unique features.
- Allow students to ask questions and share observations



GROUP ACTIVITY

- Divide students into small groups.
- Assign each group a currency from the documents.
- Groups research their assigned currency, focusing on its history, design, and current value.
- Students will use the attached Currency Research Worksheet to guide their research.



CLASS DISCUSSION

- Each group shares interesting facts about their assigned currency.
- Discuss how currency design reflects a country's culture and history.



HOMEWORK/ EXTENSION OPPORTUNITY

- Students select a country of their choice and research its currency.
- Prepare a brief report including the currency's name, value compared to their home currency, and any unique features or historical significance.
- Students can use the Currency Research Worksheet to guide their research.

Name:

Country Chosen:

ACTIVITY:

Currency Research Worksheet



Part 1: Basic Information

1. Official Currency Name:

2. What symbol is used for this currency (like \$, £, etc.)?

3. What is the international currency code (USD, GBP, etc.)?

4. What is the current exchange rate of this currency compared to your home country's currency?

Part 2: Design and Symbolism

5. Describe the design of the currency (notes and coins). What colors, images, or symbols are used?

6. Are any notable figures featured on the currency (like historical leaders, scientists, artists, etc.)? If yes, who are they?

7. Does the currency depict any famous landmarks or national symbols? Describe them.

Part 3: Historical and Cultural Significance

8. Briefly describe the history of this currency. When was it first introduced?

9. What cultural significance, if any, does the currency have? (e.g., commemorative editions, historical references)

Part 4: Practical Use

10. List a few common items (like a loaf of bread, a bus ticket, etc.) and their cost in this currency.

11. Note down any other interesting or unique facts about this currency.

Reflection

After completing your research, write a short paragraph on what you found most interesting or surprising about this currency.

DAY 2

Currency Design and Symbolism



OBJECTIVES

Students will understand the design, symbols, and historical significance embedded in different world currencies.



MATERIALS

- Handouts of each country's currency facts
- Art supplies for poster creation (paper, markers, colored pencils).
- Internet access for research.
- Projector or smartboard for presentations.



REVIEW AND RESEARCH

- Begin with a brief recap of the previous day's research on chosen countries.
- Students research the currency of their chosen country, focusing on design, symbols, and historical or cultural significance.



POSTER CREATION

- Students create a poster illustrating and explaining the currency's design and symbols.
- Encourage creativity and detail in representing the currency's features.
- Students can have the option to create a digital or physical poster for the gallery walk.



GALLERY WALK AND DISCUSSION

- Arrange a gallery walk where students display and view each other's posters.
- Students discuss the symbolism and design elements observed.
- Conclude with a class discussion about the diversity in currency designs and their cultural reflections.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Symbolism and Culture:** How does the design and symbolism of your chosen currency reflect the culture and history of its country?
- **Design Elements:** What are the most unique design elements you noticed in the currencies studied by your classmates?
- **Comparative Analysis:** How do the currencies from different countries vary in terms of color, imagery, and symbols? What might these differences say about each country's values and history?
- **Historical Figures and Landmarks:** Which figures or landmarks are depicted on the currencies, and why do you think they were chosen?
- **Security Features:** Discuss the security features you found in different currencies. Why are these features important?
- **Currency Evolution:** How do you think the currency's design might have evolved over time, and why?
- **Global Perspective:** How might understanding a country's currency lead to a better understanding of that country?



HOMEWORK/ EXTENSION OPPORTUNITY

- Reflect on what they learned about their chosen currency, focusing on how the design reflects the country's culture and history.

DAY 3

Currency Exchange and Global Economy



OBJECTIVES

Students will learn about currency exchange and its impact on the global economy.



MATERIALS

- Internet access for research.
- Whiteboard or projector for displaying information.
- Handouts from "Currency Activities.pdf" related to currency exchange.



INTRODUCTION

- **Start with a real-world example:** Ask students if they have ever traveled abroad and exchanged money.
- Begin briefly discussing currency exchange and its importance in the global economy.
 - **Currency Exchange:** Explain that exchange involves converting one country's currency into another. Emphasize its necessity in global trade, travel, and investment.
- Introduce key terms: exchange rate, foreign exchange market, appreciation, depreciation.
 - **Exchange Rates:** The price of one currency in terms of another.
 - **Foreign Exchange Market:** The global marketplace where currencies are traded. It's the largest financial market in the world with a 24-hour operation.
 - **Appreciation:** This is a situation where a currency's value rises compared to another currency. For example, if 1 US dollar used to buy 0.8 Euros and now buys 0.9 Euros, the US dollar has appreciated against the Euro.
 - **Depreciation:** This is when a currency's value decreases compared to another currency. For example, if 1 US dollar could initially buy 100 Japanese yen but later only buys 90 yen, the US dollar has depreciated against the yen.
- **Global Impact:** Highlight the role of currency exchange in the global economy. Briefly discuss how it affects imports, exports, international investments, and global financial markets.
- **Ask this question:** "How might a strong or weak currency impact a country's economy?"



INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

- Explain how exchange rates are determined and the factors influencing them.
 1. **Supply and Demand:** Compare exchange rates to a school lunch trade. If many students want a certain snack, its "value" goes up similarly, if many people want a particular currency, its value increases.
 2. **Economic Health:** Explain that just like a student's report card shows their performance, economic indicators (like how much a country produces or its unemployment rates) show their financial health. A healthier economy usually means a stronger currency.
 3. **Interest Rates:** Use the analogy of a savings account. Higher interest rates make saving money more attractive. Similarly, higher interest rates in a country can make its currency more attractive to investors.
 4. **Political Stability:** Relate this to a stable school environment more conducive to learning. A country with stable politics tends to have a stronger currency.
 5. **Market Speculation:** Compare this to guessing which team will win a game. Traders make guesses about currencies, and their actions can affect a currency's value.

Name:

Country Chosen:

ACTIVITY:

Currency Conversion Exercise



Using the provided worksheet, students will use online tools or calculators to convert amounts between their chosen currency and others.

1. Research Exchange Rates: Use websites like XE.com, OANDA, or the currency exchange section on Bloomberg to find the current exchange rate between your chosen currency and two other currencies. These websites provide up-to-date exchange rates and are widely used for their reliability. They also offer additional tools and resources for understanding currency markets.

2. Conversion Exercises:

Part A: Convert the amount in your chosen currency to the other currencies.

Part B: Convert the amounts in the two other currencies back to your chosen currency.

Conversion Table

Complete the table using the exchange rates you researched.

Chosen Currency Amount	Currency 1 Conversion	Currency 2 Conversion
100		
500		
1000		

Currency 1 Amount	Chosen Currency Conversion
50	
200	
400	

Currency 2 Amount	Chosen Currency Conversion
70	
250	
550	

Reflection Questions

1. Were there any challenges in finding or using the exchange rates?

2. How do the values of different currencies compare when converted?

3. How might fluctuations in exchange rates impact international transactions?

DAY 4

Budgeting and Planning for International Travel



OBJECTIVES

Students will apply their knowledge of foreign currencies in a practical context by planning an international trip.



MATERIALS

- Computer with internet access for research
- "Currency Activities.pdf" document
- Printed handouts of budget templates



INTRODUCTION

Briefly review currency exchange rates and their importance in budgeting for international travel and introduce the concept of travel planning and its financial aspects.

- Currency exchange rates tell us how much money from one country is worth in another country. For example, 1 US dollar might be worth about 0.9 of a Euro. These rates change often, affecting how much things cost when traveling to another country. When planning a trip, it's important to consider how much money you'll need for things like food, staying in a hotel, or buying souvenirs. By understanding exchange rates, you can figure out how much money you'll need in the other country's money, helping you budget properly for your trip. It's like planning a big school project - you need to know what you need and how much it will cost to ensure you have enough.



GROUP ACTIVITY

Divide the class into small groups. Assign each group a different country (or allow them to choose one based on previous activities).

- Using "Currency Activities.pdf" as a guide, instruct each group to plan a hypothetical 5-day trip to their chosen country.
- Remind students that they will need to include transportation, lodging, meals, and activities in their planning.
- The importance of considering the currency exchange rate in their budgeting.



BUDGET CREATION

- Using the provided budget templates, have each group create a detailed budget for their trip.
- Encourage students to research the actual costs of items in their chosen country, converting them to the local currency.



GROUP DISCUSSION, PEER FEEDBACK, REFLECTION

- Have each group present a brief overview of their travel plan and budget to the class.
- Encourage peer feedback focusing on the realism of the budget and the effective use of currency knowledge.
- Discuss the challenges and learnings from the activity.
- Students can refine their travel plans and budgets based on peer feedback and prepare a short presentation of their final plan to use on Day 5.

DAY 5

Presentations and Reflection



OBJECTIVES

Students will present their findings and reflect on the learning experience of the Currency Unit.



MATERIALS

- Projector or whiteboard for presentations.
- Copies of students' travel plans and budgets



INTRODUCTION

Briefly recap what they have learned throughout the week about different world currencies and currency exchange.



ACTIVITY 1: TRAVEL PLAN PRESENTATIONS

- Divide the class into small groups or pairs (based on the number of students).
- Each group will take turns presenting their travel plans to the class.

During each presentation:

- The group explains their chosen destination and the currency they used.
- They share their budget breakdown, including transportation, lodging, meals, and activities.
- Encourage questions from other students after each presentation.



ACTIVITY 2: REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

After all presentations, lead a reflection and discussion session:

- Ask students to share what they found most interesting or challenging about planning a trip with a different currency.
- Discuss any common themes or observations that emerged from the presentations.
- Encourage students to reflect on how their understanding of world currencies has evolved over the course of the unit.
- Discuss the importance of financial literacy and understanding global currencies in today's interconnected world.



UNIT CLOSING

- Summarize key takeaways from the presentations and discussions. Ask students to write a short essay (1-2 paragraphs) on what they have learned during the Currency Unit and how it might influence their future financial decisions. The Currency Unit Reflection sheet provides guiding questions.

Currency Unit Reflection

1

What key insights did you gain about different world currencies throughout this unit?

2

How did the activities and discussions during the unit help you understand the significance of currency in a global context?

3

Did you find any particular aspect of planning a trip with a different currency challenging? Explain.

4

How has your perspective on budgeting and financial planning changed after participating in the travel planning activity?

5

Can you identify any similarities or differences between the currencies you studied? How might these insights be useful in the future?

6

Reflect on the importance of financial literacy and its role in making informed financial decisions in today's interconnected world.

7

How can the knowledge and skills you acquired in this unit be applied to your personal financial choices or future career aspirations?

8

Did this unit inspire any interest in learning more about global economics or international finance in the future?