



# MONEY MADNESS

DAVID A. ADLER  
ILLUSTRATED BY EDWARD MILLER

GRADES  
PREK-3

## About the Book

*This beginning guide to economics will have readers thinking about the purpose, and not just the value, of money.*

What's all this madness about money? Long ago, people traded rocks or sheep for the items they wanted, but rocks were heavy and sheep ran away. Today there are many different kinds of money, including money one can't even see! Each still has value, and money can be used to buy things people want and need.

## SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

### Mathematics

**Beginning Economics**—*Money Madness* explains how the value of money changes according to prices. Students can create a large classroom chart showing the changes in prices of commonly used commodities over a period of time—perhaps a month. They can use supermarket flyers or newspaper ads, or observe prices when they go shopping with their parents. Some items to look at might be: gasoline, milk, bread, ice cream, spinach, potato chips, etc. The daily or weekly prices can be entered on a large classroom chart showing the items, dates, and changes in price.

**Value of U.S. Dollars**—Students can use an online currency converter (see Online Resources below) to note the changes in the value of the dollar as compared to the foreign currencies shown in the book (peso, new shekel, ruble, yuan, Canadian dollar, rand, real, and euro) over a specified period of time. They can create a chart plotting the changes over the course of a month.

**Types of “Money”**—Students can discuss the differences between cash, checks, credit cards, and digital money. They can begin to learn the concept that one must have cash in the bank in order for checks, credit cards, or digital money to be useful.

### History

**Biographical Information**—The back jacket shows the portraits of seven noted U.S. leaders who are depicted on U.S. bills from \$1 to \$100. Students can use a variety of resources including encyclopedias, library books, or online resources to find out more information about these men, five of whom have been U.S. presidents.

### Art/Language Arts

**Design a Bill**—Students can use their powers of observation and look carefully on both sides of a dollar bill to see which symbols are shown in addition to the portrait. How is the bill designed? Where is its value shown? They can design an original dollar bill showing a portrait of someone who is important to them and symbols that have meaning to their lives. They can then either write a paragraph telling what their portrait and symbols mean, or they can orally present that information to the class.

## Online Resources

### **The United States Department of the Treasury**

**[www.ustreas.gov/education/faq/currency/portraits.shtml](http://www.ustreas.gov/education/faq/currency/portraits.shtml)**

Presents FAQs on the portraits and designs on U.S. currency, how they are selected, what the various symbols mean, and when and why designs are changed.

### **Universal Currency Converter**

**[www.xe.com/ucc/](http://www.xe.com/ucc/)**

Track the value of the dollar in relation to the currency of eighty-five different countries. The ten most popular currencies are listed first.

### **David A. Adler Official Website**

**[www.davidaadler.com](http://www.davidaadler.com)**

Learn all about the author!

### **Edward Miller Official Website**

**[www.edmiller.com](http://www.edmiller.com)**

Learn all about the illustrator!

Visit **[www.holidayhouse.com](http://www.holidayhouse.com)** for lots of math books from Holiday House!

## About the Author and Illustrator

**David A. Adler** has written more than a hundred books for children. A former math teacher, he enjoys showing children that math can be easy and fun too. His other math books with Holiday House are *Fun with Roman Numerals*, *Working with Fractions*, and *You Can, Toucan, Math*. David A. Adler is also the creator of the distinguished Picture Book Biography series. He lives with his family in New York State. Visit David online at **[www.davidaadler.com](http://www.davidaadler.com)**.

**Edward Miller** is the author, illustrator, and designer of many children's books including *The Monster Health Book: A Guide To Eating Healthy, Being Active & Feeling Great For Monsters & Kids!*, a Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year, and *The Tooth Book: A Guide to Healthy Teeth and Gums*. He has also illustrated *Fun with Roman Numerals*, *Working with Fractions*, and *You Can, Toucan, Math*, all by David A. Adler. Visit Ed online at **[www.edmiller.com](http://www.edmiller.com)**.



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978-0-8234-1474-1

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