

Money

By Mason H.

Money has been revolutionized throughout the ages. People have traded or bartered items for around 150,000 years, but the first form of currency on record was not until circa 680 by the Tang Dynasty. Today in the world there are a total of 167 official national currencies. The United States Dollar is one of the the biggest currencies in the foreign exchange market. The US currency consists of dollar bills, coins, and electronic money.



The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is the place where paper money is made. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is actively printing the \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 dollar bills making them the legal tender of the United States. Today there are two Bureau of Engraving and Printing facilities in the US there is one in Washington, DC and one in Fort Worth, Texas. The abbreviation for the US dollar is USD and the symbol is \$. Paper money is mainly used for large transactions or transactions that have an even number with no change required.

While paper money is made at the Engraving and Printing facility coins are made at the US Mint. The coin values made at the US Mint are 1 ¢, 5 ¢, 10 ¢, 25 ¢, 50 ¢, and \$1. While paper money is called by its value, coins have names. The 1 ¢ coin is called the penny, the 5 ¢ the nickel, the 10 ¢ the dime, the 25 ¢ the quarter, the 50 ¢ the half dollar, and the \$1 the one dollar coin. The US Mint has four facilities producing coins there is one in Philadelphia, San Francisco, New York and the headquarters is in Washington DC. The symbol for cent is ¢. Coins are mainly used with small transactions or transactions that involve change.

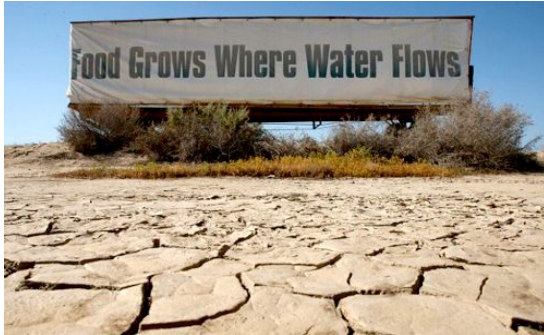
A newly introduced form of money is electronic money. In 1983 David Chaum founded Digicash, the first company using electronic money. His company is not well known because it filed for bankruptcy in 1998. The first successful electronic money company was Paypal. Now there are many companies that revolutionize spending with electronic money including phone apps called Google Wallet and Apple Pay. The money balance is recorded on a stored value card. These cards have microprocessors embedded in them which can be loaded in a monetary value.

Why are there multiple different ways to spend money? For your convenience. Electronic money helps people if they forget their wallet. Cash helps people pay for big transactions so they do not have to count coins. Coins help break up dollars to make you get your full money's worth. Next time when you are buying something figure out what type of money is best for you.

Drought In California

By Mason H.

California is going into its fourth year of an exceptional drought. Since 2012 California has been down 54% to 75% in average precipitation. To put that percentage in perspective each region in California is behind **at least** a full year worth of rainfall. Was this all the climate's fault? No. Global warming by human emissions has been intensified by 15% to 20% in U.S. alone. This lack of rain and a bad carbon footprint has brought many issues to the forefront in California.



The California drought effects all Californians and even people outside California. The drought's biggest targets are farmers all over California and especially in the Central Valley. Farmers in the Central Valley may stand to lose \$810 million from keeping their fields idle. Prices are also skyrocketing on fruits, vegetables, and nuts because of the increased price to water the crops in California. The drought has gotten so severe that people have started drilling into aquifers in the ground to get water, causing the ground to sink.

Many people ask, "When is the drought going to end?" There is not a sure answer to that, but there are some ways to prevent the drought from getting any worse. Some potential solutions cost billions of dollars and are only possible if you have access to state-of-the-art technology. Other solutions can be used everyday by anyone. One of the most effective, but money and energy consuming projects is the desalination plant. What this plant does is it pumps water out of the ocean and into the plant. Inside the plant the water gets separated from the salt resulting in clean, drinkable water. If you are not a hot shot billionaire and want to help, just preserve your water. Take shorter showers, do not leave the water running, and do not use water unless you need it. It is as easy as that.

What we really need to make the drought hit the bricks is rain, lots of rain. 2016 is supposed to bring an El Nino with rain. But will it be enough? By this spring California will have had its driest three year stretch since 1895. Hopefully next year at this time everyone in California will be relaxed with a surplus of water to go around.

How to Spear Fish

By Mason H.



Spearfishing is ancient art of fishing used by Indians, natives, sportfisherman, and countless others. Spearfishing is the art of catching fish using a spear. Spearfishing has evolved over the millennia, starting with early civilizations using sharpened sticks to spearfish in rivers and streams. Nowadays, technology is much more advanced than just using sharpened sticks. The most common way to spearfish is to use a speargun. Having fresh fish on your plate for dinner can be accomplished

in four easy steps.

First, before you get in the water it is extremely important to have all of your gear. To be most successful, you should have a gun, a wetsuit, a weight belt (with about as much weight as 8% of your body), a mask, a snorkel, fins, a stringer, and a knife. It does not matter if you have the most expensive gear, as said many times, it is the Indian not the arrow.

Once you have all your gear situated it is time to start the action! Get in the water and find a good area with lots of structure (reefs, wrecks, kelp, rock, pipes etc.) and fish. Remember while swimming around to look for caves and other places where fish can conceal themselves from predators. When looking for fish try think to like a fish. Ask yourself, "If I were a fish where would I be?"

When you see a legal sized fish, dive down to the same depth as the fish. Make sure to be quiet and calm so you do not spook or scare the fish. When you are sure your aim is pinpointed on the fish (preferably the brain so you can stone them right away leaving you with less struggles of a live fish) pull the trigger. Once you have shot the fish and it is on your spear tip pull the fish back to you. Next, take the fish off the spear and put it on your stringer.



Lastly, swim back to your boat with your trophy and get ready for a wonderful meal. Before you can cook the fish you will have to fillet it, or cut out the edible meat parts. There are many different recipes and ways to cook different fish, a good website to find out the very best is:

<http://www.all-fish-seafood-recipes.com/>.

Whether you are a novice or a professional you will still be able to catch dinner using these four simple steps. Hopefully this got you off your couch and in the water, with a delicious meal to come home with.