

Fascinating Money Facts

- The word 'money' is named after the Roman goddess of warning, Moneta.
- Early forms of money included shells, stones, grain, jewellery- things that were of value to people and could be swapped for something else.
- The first coins were used around 2,700 years ago.
- The pound sign is like the letter L with a bar across it, based on the word 'Libra' (a pound weight in Latin).
- The banknote with the largest value used today is 500 Euro.
- When a coin is made it's called 'minting'.
- Banknote printers are very secretive, they have to make it difficult to copy or 'forge' new notes, so design complicated patterns and watermarks.
- In UK, banknotes are made from cotton and linen which is tougher than paper.
- In Australia, banknotes are made from plastic, so they aren't as easy to damage.
- On 15th February 1971, the UK started using decimal currency (with 100 pence making a pound instead of the old currency where there were 12 pennies in a shilling and 20 shillings in a pound).
- There are over 170 currencies in the world.
- As Queen Elizabeth II has aged, her portrait on currency has been regularly updated, but her portrait on stamps has only been updated twice.

