The History of Money

Heading 1:

The use of money dates back thousands of years, but it didn't always look like the money we have today, but much cooler. Many years ago, cultures worldwide used different items to represent money. These are usually items that were readily available to them. The Mayan and Aztec peoples, for example, would use cocoa beans as a form of currency (which is just another word that we use for money). That's kind of like having a cup of expensive Starbucks coffee. In China, about 3000 years ago, cowry shells (you know, those white shells that look like little mouths) were used as currency.

Heading 2:

The earliest evidence of coins used as money can be found in ancient Greece, sometime around the year 600 B.C. Until then, most cultures were using objects like beads, grains, and shells as forms of money. Soon after, many other cultures began making their own coins. These ancient coins were usually made of precious metals such as gold, silver, copper, bronze, and brass and often featured images printed on them, just like today, meant to display local pride or a great big ego. Coins later became associated with governments and nations. In the early Roman empire, for example, minted coins featured the images of Roman emperors. Minting refers to the process of making metal coins.

Heading 3:

It is believed that the Chinese were the first people to begin using paper money. Paper use made it a lot easier for the Chinese merchants to "carry" their money when making a large payment or when traveling. Even though we refer to non-coin-based money as paper money, it wasn't always based on paper. Some cultures used different materials, such as cloth or leather, as an easy-to-carry representation of their coins.

Match the questions to be the headings for the paragraphs above. There is one extra answer.

When did people start using coins as money?

What materials did we use for money?

How long ago was the first money invented?

When was paper money invented?

source: https://educounting.com/the-history-of-money-for-kids/

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Find the words in the text that match the following pictures.



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Find the synonyms of the words below from the text.

1. a system of money =
2. very old; belong in the past =
3. a feeling of being proud =
4. information or things to prove something is true =
5. expensive; valuable =
6. sellers =

Complete the sentences below using the words from the text.

1. The money we used in the past looked much ... than the money we use now.
2. Cocoa beans were used as ... by the Mayan and Aztec people.
3. The Chinese used ... as their currency 3,000 years ago.
4. Before 600 B.C, beads, grains and shells were used as money by many ...
5. At the time, we could see the image of Roman king in ...
6. The process of making metal coins was named ...
7. Paper money was used by Chinese ... to make big payments.
8. Other materials such as ... or leather were used as non-coin-based money.

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