Who Made the First Coins?

Visual lesson



A lion on money?

Kai finds a tiny, lumpy coin in Grandma Rosa's box. It has a lion's face on it! "Why is there a lion on money?" he asks. "Roar!"





Weighing and waiting

Pop! The box opens into a market in Lydia, about 2,600 years ago. People pay with lumps of shiny metal. But every lump must be weighed on a scale, again and again. It takes so long that Kai yawns.

A faster way?

Nia watches the long queue. "There must be a faster way," she says. Behind the stall, a worker is holding a little metal tool with a picture carved on the end.

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> How could people know a lump was good without weighing it every time?





The first coins

Tap, tap! The worker stamps a lion's head into each lump to show it has been checked. Now nobody needs to weigh it. These were some of the very first coins! Kai roars at the lion, and the seller roars right back.

Spades and knives

Far away in old China, some coins were not round at all. They were shaped like little spades and little knives! Later, coins there were round with a square hole in the middle, so Nia can thread them on a string.





Need or want?

Pop! Back at the shop, Kai counts his coins. He has enough for one thing. His tummy rumbles for his lunch snack, but the shiny toy whistle looks so fun.

TALK ABOUT IT

Which one does Kai need?

The lion coin

Kai buys his snack and drops his other coin in his kite jar for later. Then the lion coin goes into the box, next to the cowrie shell and the tiny clay pot. "Three keepsakes!" says Kai.



Check your wonder

1 **Why did people trust the lion coin?**

- **A.** The stamp showed it was checked
- **B.** Lions are strong

2 **What shapes were some coins in old China?**

- **A.** Little spades and knives
- **B.** Always round

3 **Which one is a need?**

- **A.** Lunch when you are hungry
- **B.** A toy whistle

ANSWERS 1-A 2-A 3-A

1. Yes! The stamp meant nobody had to weigh it again. 2. That's right, and later round ones with square holes. 3. That's it. Needs come first.

THE END

Visual lesson



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