

Chalk Talk

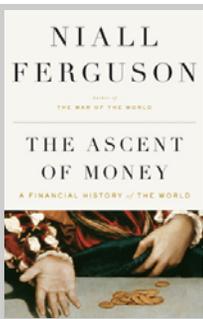
Greetings | Feature | News | Money

PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,

“Bread, cash, dosh, dough, loot, lucre, moolah, readies, the wherewithal: call it what you like, money matters. To Christians, the love of it is the root of all evil. To generals, it is the sinews of war; to revolutionaries, the chains of labour. But what exactly is money? Is it a mountain of silver, as the Spanish conquistadors thought? Or will mere clay tablets and printed paper suffice? How did we come to live in a world where most money is invisible, little more than numbers on a computer screen? Where did money come from? And where did it all go?” — Niall Ferguson



In his new book, [The Ascent of Money](#), Niall Ferguson, argues that the impact money has had on civilization is as great as that of science or law. A professor of history at Harvard University and Harvard Business School, this prolific economic historian proves once again that he is tireless and fearless in taking on big subjects. In just 464 pages, Professor

Ferguson manages to trace money back to its roots in Mesopotamia, explains its integration into society, the evolution of credit and debt, and finally connects its history to the global credit crunch and the sub-prime mortgage crisis that has already seen tens of thousands of Americans lose their homes in the U.S.

Many of us have been bewildered by all of the news coverage of the economic crisis that some have compared to the Great Depression of the 1920s, predicting that it may be with us for anywhere from two years to a decade. There is so much we don't understand about money, finance, and the underpinnings of our economy. This week's **Chalk Talk** provides information on Canada's own museum dedicated to the history of money and to providing classroom programs and resources for teachers of all grade levels.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing resources on a range of topics for the classroom. We invite you to visit our website at www.4edu.ca to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.



Currency Museum of the Bank of Canada



If recent events surrounding the economic crisis have taught us anything, it is that we need to understand money — what it is, how it works and how it began.

The [Currency Museum of the Bank of Canada](#) offers teaching tools to help students connect to “real world” economic issues. Whether you are trying to teach elementary students about money as a concept of exchange, second language students about the impact of counterfeiting on public confidence in currency, or high school students about how inflation influences what they can buy, the Museum offers products and services that teach students of all ages about money, the central bank, and the economy in English or in French...while having fun too!

With advice from teachers and bank note experts, and with today's curricula and interactive learning methods in mind, the Currency Museum offers a variety of **FREE** teaching tools for use in the classroom.



Off-Site Products and Services:

- **Counterfeit Detectors** school curriculum module for teaching about good citizenship, as well as how to tell a real bank note from a fake.
- **Inflation Busters** interactive DVD for learning about the Bank of Canada, monetary policy and inflation.
- **What is Money?** teacher's kit for teaching students about money as a concept.
- **The Currency Museum website**, online access at www.bankofcanada.ca/currencymuseum, offers online selections from the National Currency Collection, virtual Museum tour and other interactive programs.

See the **Website of the Week** below to find out more about the Museum's **on-site** programs available free

Mary Kovack

Mary Kovack

for school groups. [Click here to learn more](#) about all that the Currency Museum has to offer. Educators who wish to order classroom resources may contact museum-musee@bankofcanada.ca by email, or if you prefer, call 613-782-8914.



Website of the week

FREE Museum-based School Programs Currency Museum of the Bank of Canada



The History of Counterfeiting FREE Audio Tour

The Bank of Canada designs bank notes that are difficult to copy in order to protect Canadian money from counterfeiters. The counterfeiting of money is not a new problem. In fact, examples of counterfeiting can be found throughout history —from the clipping of silver coins in Ancient Rome, to the forgery of Continental Dollars by the British during the American Revolution. The [History of Counterfeiting audio tour](#) explores the continuing struggle between the authorities who issue money and the criminals who try to counterfeit it.

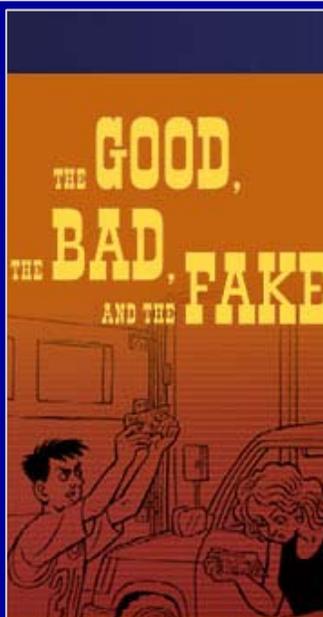
Penalties of Counterfeiting FREE Audio Tour

Counterfeiting is as old as money itself. And for each creative way to counterfeit money, there has been an equally creative way to punish the counterfeiter.

Join our virtual guide extraordinaire, Isaac Cragshaw, and explore the cruel and gruesome punishments that kings, emperors, and defenders of the law have imposed on these treasonous villains! [More ...](#)



NOTE: Both tours are presented on iPods which are loaned to visitors of the Museum free of charge.



Coming soon to the Currency Museum!

The Good, the Bad, and the Fake

6 January to 5 July 2009

When Zoë and Dave find a bag full of money, they think they've got it made. Little do they know it's just a bag of trouble!

Counterfeiting is a crime that affects all of us. Not only does it mean that people who accept a fake bill are out-of-pocket for the value of that bill, but it can also lead to a loss of confidence in Canada's money.

[The Good, the Bad, and the Fake](#) is an exciting interactive exhibit that will show you, the visitor, how to avoid getting stuck with a counterfeit note by teaching you how to tell the difference between the good, and the bad. Why not plan a visit to the museum with your class?

In the meantime, for more about [counterfeiting detection](#), and, classroom activities for ages 10-14, [click here](#).

MORE on-site Museum Programs — for K-12



- **Currency Museum Education Tours:** Counterfeiting, Economics, the Bank of Canada and more.
- **Inflation Busters simulation game sessions:** Learn about the Bank of Canada, Monetary Policy and inflation.
- **Pre-school and School Programs:** Help students of all ages learn about money.





Bank of Canada Headquarters,
from Wellington Street.

Curious Currency Chests for children aged three to six; **Dig It!** for the eight to 14 age group; **Money Matters** for students aged 10 to 14; and **Second Language Programs** for students of all ages.

Contact Educational Program Reservations to book your FREE school visit today!

- Phone: (613) 782-8852 • Fax: (613) 782-7761
 - E-mail: museum-musee@bankofcanada.ca
- [Minimum 12 students required]

[The Museum is located in the Bank of Canada building, 245 Sparks Street in downtown Ottawa.]

Education News & Related Articles

[It's not always as easy as 1-2-3; Kids with dyscalculia have trouble deciphering numbers, in the same way dyslexics have trouble with letters, researchers say](#) -- TRALEE PEARCE, Globe & Mail, Sept. 30, 2008

"It may look like arts and crafts, but when Nicolas Lafreniere plays with balls of clay, he's actually learning the basics of math. Therapist Susan Hall helps Nicolas Lafreniere, 9, use bits of clay to make math concepts more concrete. As the Vancouver child moves a clay rope up and down a grid of balls under the watchful eye of his tutor, he's adding sets of the same number in order to understand multiplication tables. It's a remedial method that is working for a number of children like Nicolas, 9, who have trouble reading numbers. Most of us understand that dyslexia impairs a child's ability to read. But few of us have even heard of dyslexia's math-challenged sibling, dyscalculia, which researchers believe affects 3 to 11 per cent of the population. As with dyslexia, the causes and underpinnings of the disorder remain mysterious, but experts say understanding dyscalculia faces an additional hurdle: Flunking math isn't considered as serious as failing to read."

[At Harvard, it's business as usual; Harvard business graduates have played central roles in the financial crisis. But don't look here for regrets](#) -- GORDON PITTS, Globe & Mail, November 19, 2008

"The red-brick Baker Library at Harvard Business School is a shrine of U.S. capitalism, a hushed sanctuary where young managers have, for eight decades, prepared for glittering careers on Wall Street and in Fortune 500 companies. But these days, it contains reminders of how fast and how far the mighty have fallen. In the lobby, stacks of brochures promote the library's valuable collection of old finance deal books. The donor: Lehman Brothers, the 160-year-old Wall Street investment bank that, in September, collapsed under the weight of its bad assets. In the future, Harvard students will still pore over Lehman's deal books, but they will be looking not for genius, but for clues to the great economic crisis of 2008 and the implosion of the U.S. enterprise model. Harvard Business School, 100 years old this year, has a lot to answer for in nurturing that model. This is the institution that pioneered the masters degree in business administration, the hot ticket to a successful capitalist career over the past 60 years."

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