

Symbols of Society

Long ago, people did not use paper money. They used coins made of metal, or they *traded goods such as rice, cloth, or animals. This kind of trading was sometimes difficult because people needed the same goods to *exchange. For example, if one person had rice but the other person wanted cloth, the trade could not happen easily. Because of this problem, people search for a new way to buy and sell things.

Paper money first appeared in China more than 1,000 years ago. *Merchants began to use it because it was lighter and easier to carry than heavy coins. Later, the *government made official paper money, which everyone could use to buy goods. This was an important step in history because it made trading faster, simpler, and more convenient.

In *Europe, paper money appeared much later. At first, many people were worried because paper could be easy to *fake. They thought coins were safer. To solve this problem, banks created special designs, colors, and stamps to make paper money safe. These designs also made money more interesting and beautiful to look at.

Today, most countries use paper money and coins together. Some countries also use digital money for online shopping and payments. Digital money is not heavy, and people can use it with computers or phones. However, people need to learn how to use money safely, *whether it is paper, coins, or digital. Money is very important in daily life because it helps people buy food, clothes, and many other things.

*trade	交換する
*exchange	交換する
*merchant	商人
*government	政府
*Europe	ヨーロッパ
*fake	騙す
*whether A or B	A であれ B であれ

Q1. What problem did people face when trading goods long ago?

- (1) They always had too many coins.
- (2) They needed the same goods to exchange, which was difficult.
- (3) They could only trade rice and cloth.
- (4) They used paper money but it was too heavy.

Q2. Why did merchants in China begin to use paper money?

- (1) Because it was lighter and easier to carry than coins.
- (2) Because coins were safer and harder to fake.
- (3) Because the government forced them to use it.
- (4) Because paper money was more beautiful than rice or cloth.

Q3. Why were people in Europe worried about paper money at first?

- (1) Because it was too heavy to carry.
- (2) Because paper could be easy to fake.
- (3) Because banks refused to use designs or stamps.
- (4) Because coins were not accepted anywhere.

Q4. What kind of money do people use today?

- (1) Only paper money in every country.
- (2) Paper money, coins, and sometimes digital money.
- (3) Only coins made of metal.
- (4) Only rice, cloth, and animals for trade.

Q5. What is this story about?

- (1) The history and importance of money.
- (2) How to grow rice and make cloth.
- (3) A famous bank in Europe.
- (4) The invention of digital computers.

Q1. (2)

Q2. (1)

Q3. (2)

Q4. (2)

Q5. (1)

日本語訳

社会の象徴

昔、人々は紙幣を使っていませんでした。金属製の硬貨を使うか、米、布、動物などの品物を交換していました。しかし、交換には同じ品物が必要だったため、こうした取引は時に困難を伴いました。例えば、片方が米を持っていて、もう片方が布を欲しがっている場合、容易に取引することはできませんでした。この問題から、人々は物を売買する新しい方法を模索するようになりました。

紙幣は 1000 年以上前に中国で初めて登場しました。商人たちは、重い硬貨よりも軽くて持ち運びやすいため、紙幣を使い始めました。後に、政府は公式の紙幣を発行し、誰もが商品の購入に使用できるようになりました。これは、取引をより迅速、簡単、そして便利にしたため、歴史上重要な一歩でした。

ヨーロッパでは、紙幣はずっと後に登場しました。当初、多くの人々は紙幣が偽造しやすいことを懸念していました。硬貨の方が安全だと考えていました。この問題を解決するために、銀行は特別なデザイン、色、スタンプを作成し、紙幣の安全性を高めました。これらのデザインは、お金の見た目をより魅力的で美しくしました。

今日では、ほとんどの国が紙幣と硬貨を併用しています。一部の国では、オンラインショッピングや決済にデジタルマネーが使用されています。デジタルマネーは軽量で、パソコンやスマートフォンで利用できます。しかし、紙幣、硬貨、デジタルマネーなど、お金の安全な使い方を学ぶ必要があります。お金は、食料や衣服など、様々なものを購入するのに役立つため、日常生活において非常に重要です。