Money at Work

Sort what money does from what makes it useful.

E.C.5 "Examine the origin, function, and evolution of money and monetary systems within modern economies, including trading, borrowing, investing, and the effects of monetary expansion and contraction..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

FUNCTION OF MONEY	CHARACTERISTIC OF MONEY
A function is a job money does, such as helping people trade, compare prices, or hold value for later.	A characteristic is a quality that makes money practical to use, such as being easy to carry or hard to damage.
A mechanic accepts cash to fix a bicycle.	A gold coin stays intact after years of handling.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle FUNCTION or FEATURE for each item; in Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain how you knew.

1.	A bakery lists a loaf of bread at $5.	FUNCTION	FEATURE
2.	A family keeps $80 to spend next month.	FUNCTION	FEATURE
3.	A $20 bill can be exchanged for four $5 bills to make smaller payments.	FUNCTION	FEATURE
4.	Two laptops are priced in dollars, making their costs easy to compare.	FUNCTION	FEATURE
5.	Several paper bills fit in a small wallet.	FUNCTION	FEATURE
6.	Street vendors and grocery stores in a city both accept the same currency.	FUNCTION	FEATURE
7.	A student sets aside $40 to buy a winter coat later.	FUNCTION	FEATURE
8.	Strict controls limit how many official coins can be minted.	FUNCTION	FEATURE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new example of a function of money and one new example of a characteristic of money.

FUNCTION _____

FEATURE _____

CHALLENGE

Imagine a currency that tears easily but is still accepted in shops. Identify one weak characteristic and one function it can still serve, then explain how both can be true.

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PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A bakery lists a loaf of bread at $5.	**FUNCTION**	Money provides a unit for stating a price.
2	A family keeps $80 to spend next month.	**FUNCTION**	Money stores value for later use.
3	A $20 bill can be exchanged for four $5 bills to make smaller payments.	**FEATURE**	Money is divisible into smaller amounts.
4	Two laptops are priced in dollars, making their costs easy to compare.	**FUNCTION**	Money provides a common unit for comparing prices.
5	Several paper bills fit in a small wallet.	**FEATURE**	Money is portable.
6	Street vendors and grocery stores in a city both accept the same currency.	**FEATURE**	Money is widely acceptable.
7	A student sets aside $40 to buy a winter coat later.	**FUNCTION**	Money stores value for future use.
8	Strict controls limit how many official coins can be minted.	**FEATURE**	Limited production helps make official coins scarce.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **FUNCTION**: A bus fare is stated in dollars, so riders know how much it costs.
- **FEATURE**: A banknote is light enough to carry in a pocket.

Challenge: Durability is weak because the currency tears easily. It can still serve as a medium of exchange while shops accept it as payment.

For Part 2, a student might explain that item 3 shows divisibility because one bill can become smaller amounts, while item 4 shows a function because dollars let shoppers compare prices. Accept other explanations that correctly connect an item to its category.