

What's happening in the news this week?



44 Frames/Shutterstock

Let's have a look at this week's poster!

30th March - 5th April 2026

Bank of England

I PROMISE TO PAY THE BEARER ON DEMAND THE SUM OF TWENTY POUNDS



What should represent a country?

Twenty
P

£10



Let's look at this week's story

The Bank of England, that designs and makes the UK's banknotes, has said that future notes will include British wildlife, such as animals or plants, instead of historical figures. At the moment, UK banknotes feature the British monarch on the front and well-known people from history on the back. However, some believe the back of banknotes should instead celebrate nature, showing animals, birds, or plants that live in the UK.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



How does it make me feel?



sad

despondent
disconsolate
dismal
doleful
downhearted
forlorn
gloomy
melancholic
miserable
woeful
wretched

angry

aggrieved
annoyed
discontented
disgruntled
distressed
exasperated
frustrated
indignant
offended
outraged
resentful
vexed

happy

beaming
buoyant
cheery
contented
delighted
enraptured
gleeful
glowing
joyful

confused

addled
baffled
bemused
bewildered
disorientated
indistinct
muddled
mystified
perplexed
puzzled

excited

animated
elevated
enlivened
enthusiastic
exhilarated
exuberant
thrilled

worried

agitated
anxious
apprehensive
concerned
disquieted
distraught
distressed
disturbed
fretful
perturbed
troubled
uneasy

overwhelmed

engulfed
inundated
overburdened
overloaded
saturated
submerged
swamped

afraid

alarmed
apprehensive
daunted
fearful
frantic
horrified
petrified
terrified

guilty

ashamed
compunctious
contrite
culpable
penitent
responsible
rueful

jealous

bitter
covetous
desirous
envious
envying
resentful
wary

thankful

appreciative
grateful
gratified
indebted
obliged
relieved

shocked

astonished
astounded
disconcerted
distressed
dumbfounded
horrified
staggered
startled
stunned
surprised

disgusted

affronted
appalled
horrified
repelled
repulsed
revolted
sickened

inspired

activated
encouraged
exhilarated
galvanised
influenced
motivated

embarrassed

ashamed
awkward
chagrined
demeaned
discomposd
humiliated
self-conscious
uncomfortable
uneasy
unsettled

interested

absorbed
captivated
curious
engaged
enthralled
fascinated
gripped
intrigued
riveted

This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read the information below about UK money and the suggested changes to banknotes. Which of the suggestions would you like to see most? Can you think of any others?

What's on our money?

Pictures on money are chosen carefully because they show what a country wants to celebrate, whether that is important people, wildlife, buildings, or culture.

Famous faces

UK banknotes feature important historical figures:

- The £5 note has an image of Sir Winston Churchill, a former UK prime minister.
- The £10 note shows Jane Austen, famous for writing stories like *Pride and Prejudice*.
- The £20 note shows artist J.M.W. Turner and a painting of his.
- The £50 note features Alan Turing, who helped crack secret codes during World War II.



Who designs UK banknotes?

Some UK banknotes are designed and issued by the Bank of England. It may ask the public for ideas when planning new banknotes. Certain banks in Scotland and Northern Ireland issue notes too.



Above: Brazilian notes featuring wildlife, showing what new UK notes might look like.

Source: Cashessentials.

British wildlife that could appear on banknotes

Some people believe future UK banknotes should celebrate British wildlife. Here are some examples that represent the UK's natural world.

Hedgehogs

The European hedgehog is one of Britain's most recognisable animals. Hedgehogs come out at night and curl into a ball to protect themselves.



Puffins

A colourful seabird also called the 'clown of the sea'. Puffins live on cliffs around the UK coast and are known for their bright beaks.



Barn Owls

They hunt mostly at night and can hear small animals moving in grass from far away.



Bluebell

A wildflower that appears in British woodlands during spring.





Look at the resource below, which shows different countries' banknotes and what's on them. What do you notice on each one?

Swedish Krona



famous people	quotes	story characters	music notes
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Euro



map of Europe	stars (from the EU flag)	famous landmarks
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South Korean Won



plants and insects	influential scholars	landscapes	historical objects
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Egyptian Pound



architecture	motifs	text in different languages	pharaohs
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Choose two banknotes.

Can you spot something that is the same and something that is different?

Create your own list of similarities and differences.

Bahraini Dinar



rulers	modern buildings	decorative designs	horses
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Look at the resource below, which shares some information on the history of Bank of England banknotes.

1700s

Banknotes started to have fixed values, such as £50. Some parts of the notes were still written and edited by hand.

1694

The Bank of England was set up to help raise money for the country. It gave people handwritten banknotes when they deposited money. Each note was written by hand.

1800s

In 1853, the first fully printed banknotes were introduced. This made them quicker to produce and harder to copy.



Pictured: Old Bank of England paper banknotes, showing Queen Elizabeth II. These notes could wear out or tear more easily than today's plastic ones.
Source: Canva.

Early 1900s

During World War I, more banknotes were printed so people could keep using money. Smaller notes, like £1 notes, became common in everyday life.

Late 1900s

From 1970 onwards, banknotes began to include important historical figures, such as writers, scientists, and leaders, to celebrate their achievements. £1 banknotes stopped being used in 1988!

Today!

Today, many banknotes are made from polymer (a type of plastic). They are stronger, last longer, and have special features like holograms and clear windows to stop people copying them.

Do you think physical banknotes will still be used in the future? Why?

If banknotes were replaced, what could we use instead?

Bank of England

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Reflection



Different countries use their money to celebrate many things, from important leaders and inventors to animals and culture. Considering what appears on something like money can help us reflect on what matters to us, and what we want future generations to remember.



Media Literacy

I can tell the difference between fact and opinion.



Explanation: Let's look at some of the differences between facts and opinions.



Analyse



Evaluate



Research



Act

Questions to Discuss

- What is the difference between a fact and an opinion?
- Which do you think is more trustworthy? Why?
- Can facts and opinions change? How?
- Why would a journalist include facts and opinions in an article?

Activity

Look at the two sentences below taken from this week's story. Decide which is a fact and which is an opinion, and explain why.

- "Bosses at the Bank may feel they are less likely to face a backlash with choices of wildlife."
- "Nature was the most popular theme in the 44,000 responses to a public consultation and focus groups on banknote imagery."

Share your thoughts with the class. Why not read the article again and try spot other features!



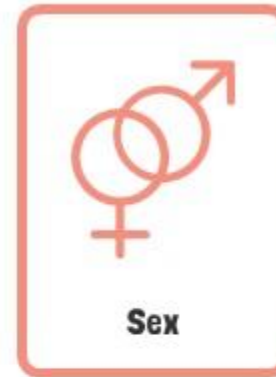
Democracy

To show democracy in action, the Bank of England gave everyone a say by voting for their favourite theme. The bank chose nature because it was the most popular choice among the public.

Protected Characteristics



Putting wildlife on banknotes shows that protecting our planet is a shared duty for everyone, no matter what religion or belief they have. It helps everyone to feel included because nature is something we all share.



Sex



Sexual
Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender
Reassignment



Marriage and
Civil Partnership



Pregnancy
and Maternity



Race



Religion
or Belief



UN Rights of the Child



Using wildlife to represent the UK, instead of historical figures, shows children that nature is an important part of our national identity and that we have a responsibility to protect the environment.



Useful Vocabulary



Banknotes

A type of physical money made from paper or plastic.

The UK **banknotes** are designed and issued by the Bank of England.

Culture

A shared way of life of a group of people, including their traditions, beliefs, languages, and the types of food and art they enjoy together.

Pictures on money are chosen carefully because they show what a country wants to celebrate, whether that is important people, wildlife, buildings, or **culture**.

Feature

A distinctive part, quality, or characteristic of something that helps identify it or describes what it is like.

At the moment, UK banknotes **feature** well-known people from history...

Historical figure

A famous person from the past who is remembered today because of the important impact they had on the world.

UK banknotes feature important **historical figures**.

Public

The people in a general community, town, or country.

It may ask the **public** for ideas when new banknotes are being planned.

Wildlife

Animals, plants, and other living things that live and grow in their natural habitats without being kept or cared for by humans.

Some people believe future UK banknotes should celebrate British **wildlife**.

Can you use them in a conversation this week?

Picture News



What should represent a country?

The Bank of England, that designs and makes the UK's banknotes, has said that future notes will include British wildlife, such as animals or plants, instead of historical figures. At the moment, UK banknotes feature the British monarch on the front and well-known people from history on the back. However, some believe the back of banknotes should instead celebrate nature, showing animals, birds, or plants that live in the UK.



- Look at this week's image, and make a prediction about this week's story. This week it's all about possible changes to banknotes.
- Share any prior knowledge you have of money – coins and banknotes. Do you know anything about the images or information included on them?
- Read the information found on the **assembly resource** about UK money and the suggested changes to banknotes. Which of the suggestions would you like to see most? Can you come up with any others?
- Watch this week's useful video, which explores what might feature on future banknotes. How often do you see banknotes in day-to-day life? Is it more common to see banknotes or bank cards?
- Can you think of anything else that isn't currently featured on money, that is an important representation of the country?
- Currently, the Bank of England decides what goes on the notes and it sometimes asks the public to help – do you believe it's important people are asked to share their thoughts on what is chosen?

Reflection

Different countries use their money to celebrate many things, from important leaders and inventors to animals and culture. Considering what appears on something like money can help us reflect on what matters to us, and what we want future generations to remember.

Picture News



KS1 focus

What do countries around the world feature on their banknotes?



- Think about the money you use or see. What pictures or designs do you know that are on banknotes? Why do you think banknotes have these pictures?
- Look at **resource 1** which shows banknotes from different countries. Which one stands out to you the most? Why?
- Some banknotes show people, others show animals, plants, or buildings. Why do you think countries make different choices on what to have on their banknotes?
- Why do you think some countries share the same currency, like the Euro?
- Compare two (or more) banknotes on **resource 1**. What is the same? What is different? Which one do you prefer? Why?
- Why do certain banknotes only show one person while others have more than one? Do you think it is more interesting to have people or animals on banknotes? Why?
- People who have sight loss or are blind may need features to help them tell notes apart. What could those be?
- Choose one thing to represent your country on a banknote. Has everyone chosen the same thing? Could you include all the ideas on one banknote? How could a fair decision be made?

Reflection

Banknotes are more than just money. They show what is important to a country, like its people, animals, or places, and tell us about its history.

Picture News



KS2 focus

What is the history of our banknotes?



- Money has existed in various forms for thousands of years. Think about the oldest note or coin you have seen. How is it different from the ones you use today?
- Look at **resource 2** which shows the history of the Bank of England's banknotes. Which fact did you find most interesting?
- Banknotes used to be made from paper, but now many countries use a plastic called polymer. Why might countries have changed the material of their money?
- Banknotes often show important people or events. What kind of people or events do you think should appear on a banknote today? Why? Are these from the past or modern day?
- Imagine it is 50 years from now. What might banknotes look like then? Do you think they will still exist? Why?
- Do you think going completely cashless (using only cards or phones to pay) would make life easier or harder? Why? How would that change the way we use money?
- Banknotes and coins can become collector's items. Can you think of a reason why people might collect old banknotes or coins instead of spending them?
- Banknotes have numbers showing their value. Why do you think it is important for money to show how much it is worth?

Reflection

Banknotes tell stories about the past, but they also make us think about the future. They show how countries have changed over time, what people value, and how we might use money in new ways.



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Look at animals already featured on British coins (e.g., the Hazel Dormouse on the 1p coin or the Capercaillie on the 10p coin). Discuss that these were introduced to highlight endangered species or conservation successes.

Research some animals or plants found in different parts of Britain. You may wish to consider:

- Does the animal have any distinctive features?
- Is the species critically endangered, vulnerable, or a recovery success?
- Does this animal help other species survive?

Extension task - Write a letter to the Bank of England explaining why you think the animal or plant you researched should feature on the new banknotes.

Option 2

Discuss that the UK uses the currency, Pound Sterling. Available notes are £5, £10, £20 and £50.

Imagine you are going to the shops, but you don't have any coins. Use different value banknotes to purchase each item. Why not try to use the banknotes which gets you to the closest value of the item you are purchasing!

- Shop 1 - a bag of apples costing £2.10
- Shop 2 - a book costing £12.50
- Shop 3 - a jumper costing £25.90

Discuss that lots of people now choose to use cashless methods of payment e.g., bankcards, phones and watches.

Think about: What are some pros and cons to cashless payments? Which do you think you would prefer to use? Why?



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Starting in 2016, the Bank of England began making new banknotes made from a material called polymer. This is a thin, flexible plastic that is much stronger than paper.

Using pretend money on different paper types (standard paper vs. laminated or plastic-coated), conduct an experiment to test:

- Durability – try to tear both.
- Waterproof – drop water on both.
- Cleanliness – put some paint or pen on both and see which wipes clean.

Write down the results of your test.

Think about: Which material do you think is better for banknotes? Why? Polymer notes last over 2.5 times longer than paper. Why might this be better for the environment?

Option 2

Show the class images of current banknotes. Then, in groups, assign each a different value banknote e.g., £5, £10, £20, £50.

Research an animal, bird or plant native to Britain. You may wish to include:

- The name of the animal.
- Where it lives.
- What it eats.
- A fun fact.

Then design a new version of the banknote including your chosen animal, bird or plant.

Think about: Why do you think we put images on banknotes instead of leaving them blank?



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4geyyg9en6o

This week's useful video

What might feature on banknotes?

www.youtube.com/shorts/t5pBVKctQmw

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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TAKEHOME

30th March
- 5th April



In the news this week

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Things to talk about at home ...

- > Look at a coin or banknote you have at home. What pictures or symbols can you see on it? Why might they have been chosen?
- > Different countries show different things on their money, such as leaders, buildings, or wildlife. What do you feel money should say about a country?
- > Imagine you could design your own coin or banknote. What picture would you include and why? Ask someone at home about what they would choose.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Tee-rific Plans for Bolton

A big sporting event could be heading to Greater Manchester in England. Leaders there are planning a bid to bring the famous Ryder Cup to Bolton in 2035. The Ryder Cup is one of the biggest golf competitions in the world. It is a team event where the best players from Europe play against the best players from the USA. They use clubs to hit small white balls into holes across a giant grass course. The event could be held at a new golf resort planned for Hulton Park in Bolton. The course has not been built yet, but the plans include space for thousands of people to come and watch. Andy Burnham, a leader for the region, said the event could bring visitors, jobs



Pictured: A golf ball on the tee. **Source:** Canva.

and new opportunities to the area. Professional golfer, Tommy Fleetwood, also supports the idea. He said, 'To do it in the northwest of England, where I am from, would be amazing.' The Ryder Cup began in 1927 and is watched by many people around the world. If the bid is successful, it would be the first time the event has been held in Greater Manchester. **How old will you be if the Ryder Cup comes to Bolton in 2035?**

Train Sleepover!

A new overnight train route will soon travel across four countries in Europe, giving people another way to journey... while they sleep! The train will run from Brussels to Milan, passing through Germany and Switzerland. Travellers can hop on in the evening and wake up the next morning in a completely different country!



Pictured: A sleeper carriage on an overnight train. **Source:** Canva.

The service will begin on 9th September 2026 and run a few nights each week. Night trains have special carriages where people can sit or lie down to rest, so passengers can sleep as the train rolls through the night. The route passes through cities such as Zurich and travels through mountain areas before reaching northern Italy. This means passengers wake up to brand-new views outside their window! The train was first planned to start earlier, but the date was moved to September to make sure everything is ready to run smoothly. **Would you like to fall asleep on a train and wake up somewhere new?**

What makes something fun?



I enjoy doing activities with my friends and family. We always laugh together!

Beth

Rainy Reveal

Seattle Department of Transportation has recently commissioned some exciting artwork that is designed to appear when it rains, at their new Beacon Hill Plaza bus stop. The pedestrian area, in Washington state, North America, now displays the artwork of Rainworks. Rainworks is the company that has created a coating for the ground that makes the art of inspiring phrases, shapes, and patterns invisible when dry, but visible



Pictured Artwork that can only be seen when the pavement is wet. **Source:** Rainworks on Facebook.

when wet! The coating has been used to spray a couple of sea lions, an orca, a giant wave, and a 25-foot maze. 'Seattle has such a deep connection with rain. It's integral to the culture and the personality of the city,' said Peregrine Church, Rainworks founder. 'There's also a lot of really kind, caring, passionate people here. And so, I like to think about Rainworks representing both of those things. Yes, it's a rainy city. Yes, we have dreary days. But we're also making the best of it.'

Do you think seeing artwork appear would cheer up your rainy day? What design would you add to the pavement to try to make people smile?



Community Climate Change Fund

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has made grants of between £400 and £5,000 available for community-based projects that help tackle climate change and support nature recovery. The local authority said that the aim of the funding is to mobilise local groups and encourage people to work together on green projects, such as tree-planting, transport schemes or recycling projects. Since 2021, around 40 groups have benefited from the Community Climate Change and Nature Fund. This includes a



Pictured: Planting a tree. **Source:** Canva.

tree-planting scheme run by Dane Valley Climate Action Group, a green arts festival run by Moorlands Climate Action, and a weed pull and litter pick arranged by Longnor Action Group. The next round of applications can be submitted between 1st April and 31st May. Nigel Yates, the local councillor responsible for the environment, said, 'By providing community-led schemes with these grants we're making sure people can take action at a very local level.'

Do you think grants are a good way to inspire community action against climate change? Do you know how to plant a tree?

What makes something fun?



I love learning new dance moves. I find it fun to dance a new routine with my classmates.

Anthony

Let us know what you think about this week's news



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