

Module 3: What is Bitcoin?

Teacher Overview

This module introduces students to the concept of Bitcoin — what it is, how it works, and why it was created. Students will explore the foundational ideas behind decentralized digital currency and begin to understand the value proposition of Bitcoin compared to traditional money.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this module, students will be able to:

- Define Bitcoin and explain its core purpose.
- Understand the difference between centralized and decentralized systems.
- Describe how Bitcoin transactions work on a blockchain.
- Identify the reasons Bitcoin was created in response to flaws in traditional systems.

Key Concepts to Cover

- Bitcoin Basics: Digital currency, peer-to-peer network, and supply cap (21 million coins).
- Decentralization: No central authority, secured by a global network of computers (miners).
- Blockchain Technology: An open, immutable ledger of transactions.
- Bitcoin as a Response: How Bitcoin aims to solve issues like inflation, censorship, and lack of financial sovereignty.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Bitcoin was created in 2009 after the financial crisis?
- How is Bitcoin different from government money?
- Do you think Bitcoin could replace traditional money in the future? Why or why not?
- What does it mean for money to be decentralized?

Suggested Activities

- Bitcoin Whiteboard Demo: Use visuals to explain how a transaction is processed on the blockchain.
- Create a Bitcoin Timeline: Map out major milestones in Bitcoin's history.
- Bitcoin Myth-Busting: Break students into groups to investigate and debunk common misconceptions (e.g., "Bitcoin isn't real", "It's only used for crime").

Extension and Homework

- Recommended Reading- [What is Bitcoin and Why Does It Matter?](#)
- Watch: [Bitcoin Explained Simply for Beginners](#) (YouTube – 8 min)
- Assignment: Ask students to write a paragraph explaining Bitcoin to someone with no technical knowledge.