Welcome to spotlight. I’m Katy Blake and I’m Christy Vanarragon. Spotlight uses a special English method of broadcasting. It is easier for people to understand no matter where in the world they live.

Small shiny shells, round metal coins, colorful paper, square pieces of plastic. What do these things have in common? They are all different kinds of money. How do you get the things you need? Do you trade with your friend? Do you use paper money or coins? Or do you use credit? Throughout history, people have used all of these different kinds of money. Today’s spotlight is on the history of money.

Trading is one of the first way that people have gotten what they need. For example, in the past salt was very important to people. People needed salt to keep food fresh so people would trade salt for other things they needed. People traded salt for shoes, tools, weapon and food. This method of trading is called Bartering. Instead of buying things people bartered or traded for them. But bartering does not always work well. For example, a man who makes shoes may need some rice. He may try to trade the shoes he makes for the rice. But the person who grows rice may not need new shoes. If the man who grows rice is not willing to trade, the man who makes shoes is not able to get what he needs.

So over time people develop a new system. Instead of bartering people would trade for particular objects. These objects were often rare or beautiful but sometimes, the objects were even common things. These special objects are called proto money. Proto means first in time or earliest. So proto money is the first or earliest kind of money. Some cultures use objects such as seeds, pieces of wood, animal skins, cloth and shells.

In native American culture, people use pieces of a special kind of seashell as money. This kind of money was called wampum. People wore a pieces of wampum around their necks. It was a popular form of proto money. In the 1600s, local governments in the United States even accepted it as an official form of money. People used wampum in America until about the year 1700.

Another popular kind of proto money was a shell from the coast of the Indian ocean. This shell is called a cowrie shell. People have used cowrie shells in many places from China to Africa. People used the cowrie shell because it is very beautiful. The shell is white with a little bit of yellow. The surface is very smooth. It is between 1 and 3 centimeters long. The small size and the physical beauty made the cowrie shell a very popular kind of proto money. In some parts of the world, people use cowrie shells as money until the 1800s.

However, the most popular kind of proto money was metal. The Ancient Egyptians weighed amounts of metal like gold or silver. Each amount had a particular value. The Egyptians used gold and silver because of their beauty. These metals were purer than other metals like iron. People bought things for different amounts of metal. Something very valuable was worth a larger amount and weight of metal. Using metal as money led people to create metal coins. People in Ancient Turkey made the first metal coins. The coin first appeared almost 3000 years ago.

People used special tools to create pictures on pieces of mental. Each picture identify how much the piece of mental weigh. Each different weight of mental was worth a different amount.

Coins spread from Turkey to Africa and Europe. Soon coin became the most popular form of money. People began to use coins all over the world. Coins had many different kinds of picture staved into them. Some coins have animals while others show common things such as tools or plants. Each different picture represented a different amount.

The first person to have his face on a coin was Alexander the great. Alexander the great lived more than 2000 years ago. He was the king of an area in Macedonia near Greece. He fought many battles and never lost. He is one of history's greatest military commanders. His coins were used throughout his territories.

Another popular face on a coin was the face of Maria Teresa. She was the queen of Austria in 1765. Her coins were so popular that people used it in countries outside of Austria. People in Arabia and Africa began to use the Maria Theresa coins as money. Some people even believe that the Maria Theresa coins had magical powers. People used this coins in part of Africa until 1924.

Even those coins were so popular it was not easy to carry a lot of coins a far distance. They were too heavy. The Chinese was the first to use paper money instead. They started using paper money more than 1000 years ago. This new paper money was easier to carry for long distances. Hundreds of years later Europe also began to use paper money. In the beginning people wrote paper money by hand. But as time went on, government took over the job of making money if paper money became damaged or too dirty, a person could trade in their old money for new money if they need it to. They could also trade in the paper for its value and gold or silver. Money has continued to change even in recent time. In some places, people rarely use money instead. They use thin plastic credit cards. Using a credit card, a person borrows money from a bank when he buys something then at the end of the month, he paid the bank. This makes it easy to spend money. Money expert says that it is too easy when people use paper money or coins, they spend less money when they use a credit cards, people spend more money even too much money. This leads to death the person own money to the bank. What will money look like in the future, expert thinks that soon everything will happen electronically, using computers. This digital money will replace physical money. This is already happening but in most places, people still use beautiful colorful paper money and shiny mental coins. People from long ago may have never imagine all the different and new ways that people can pay for things today. We have come a long way since the day of bordering. What kind of money do you use?

The writer of this program is Joshua Liam. The producer was Michio Ozaki. The voices you heard was from the United States and United Kingdoms. You can listen to this program again and read it on the internet at [www.radioenglish.net](http://www.radioenglish.net/). This program is called the History of money. You can also leave your comments on our website or you can email us at radio@radioenglish.net. We hope you can join us again for the next spotlight program. Goodbye.