

LEVELED Book • S

The International T-shirt Challenge



Written by Elizabeth Strauss

The International T-shirt Challenge



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International T-shirt Challenge

Attention all kids!

I have written before about the challenges I trade with my friend, Keyboard Queen. This week, she chose a shopping spree! (Not exactly up my alley...)

I need your help, please.

If you had \$100 in United States currency, what is the largest number of kids' T-shirts you could buy in your country? What is your money called? What would the shirts cost in your money?

Thanks!

POSTED by WEB BOY – September 19
at 2:31PM – 0 comments –

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Me and KBQ

KBQ and I first met at Jefferson Elementary. Katie's a whiz at the keyboard, that's why I call her KBQ—Keyboard Queen. We made up this game we called "Super Brainy Adventures" or SBAs. We took turns challenging each other with brain stumpers.

↑ **WHAT WAS
THE FIRST
RECORDED
HUMAN-MADE
OBJECT?**

.....

Why is a blue potato blue?

.....

.....
**How many actors have
played Superman?**

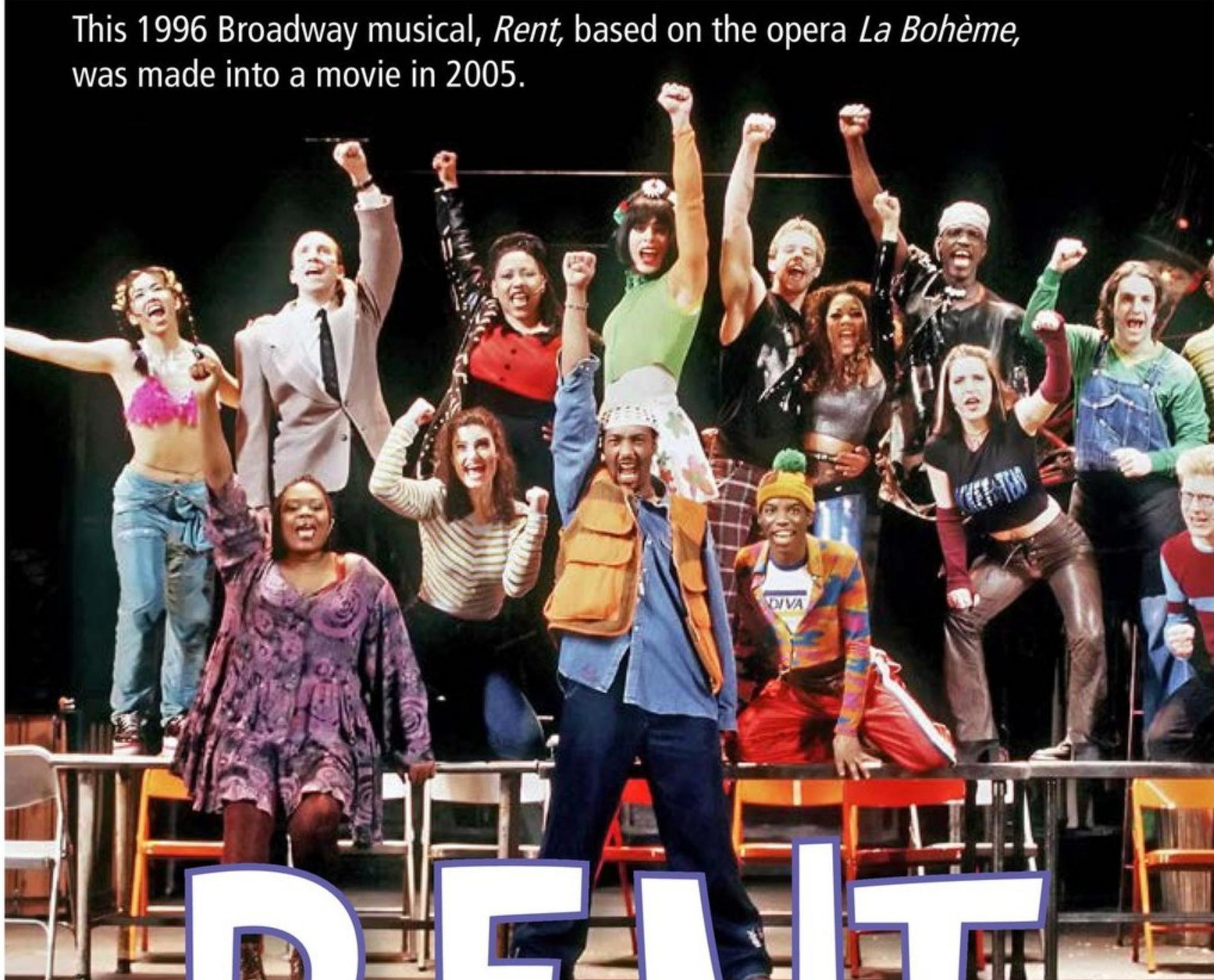
.....

**How many full-grown
Asian elephants can
be carried on the RMS
Queen Elizabeth 2?**

Now we're at Independence Middle School.
Our SBAs have grown into MMQs—"Master
Mind Quests."

Last week I challenged KBQ to find a musical or opera from the nineteenth century that was the basis for a modern movie. It took her right up until our deadline to come up with an answer. This week it is KBQ's turn to try to stump me.

This 1996 Broadway musical, *Rent*, based on the opera *La Bohème*, was made into a movie in 2005.



RENT

Challenge Given, Challenge Taken

“Ready, Web Boy?” she said.

“Go, Keyboard Queen.”

“This quest is called ‘The International T-shirt Challenge.’ It involves worldwide research, mathematics, culture, and **currency**. Imagine you have \$500 to spend. You must spend it all on kids’ T-shirts, but the hitch is you must spend it among five countries.”

“The person who has bought the most T-shirts and has the least amount of their \$500 left wins. The challenge, as always, ends on Friday at three o’clock.”



“I’m in,” I answered. My mind was already planning my **strategy**. *Great*, I thought. *She’s sending me on an international shopping spree*. It was a **phenomenal** selection. I hated shopping, but I had a secret weapon. I had my **weblog**.

When I got home, I detailed the challenge and my plan for my Mom, hoping for some shopping expertise. Advice in hand, I headed straight to the computer. I composed a post for my weblog, and then I posted it.

The screenshot shows a window titled "Mail" with a toolbar at the top containing icons for New, Up/Down arrows, Flag, Print, Junk, Projects, and other functions. Below the toolbar is a search bar with dropdown menus for Subject, starts with, and Search. The main area displays an email message:

International T-shirt Challenge

Attention all kids!

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If you had \$100 in United States currency, what is the largest number of kids' T-shirts you could buy in your country? What is your money called? What would the shirts cost in your money?

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The Search Begins

Starting with the U.S.A., I went to my favorite **search engine** and typed in “kids’ T-shirts.” I checked the results. Our house rule is that Mom has to look at and approve anything I find on the **Internet**. I ended up at Almo’s Gigantic Store. They had a sale on T-shirts, one for \$4.99.

I used my calculator. That would be 20 T-shirts from Almo’s Gigantic Store for a total of \$99.80.



Part of my plan was to record this information so I could track it. I made a chart and filled in my first entry.

	Country (Currency)	Store	T-Shirt Price	Number	Total Price	Change
1	U.S.A. (dollar)	Almo's Gigantic Store	\$4.99	20	\$99.80	\$0.20
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						

When I finished writing everything down, it was dinnertime. Then I needed to start my Social Studies project on the American Revolution. I couldn't check my blog because, according to our house rules, I had to turn off my computer at nine o'clock.

The next day I had two posts waiting for me.

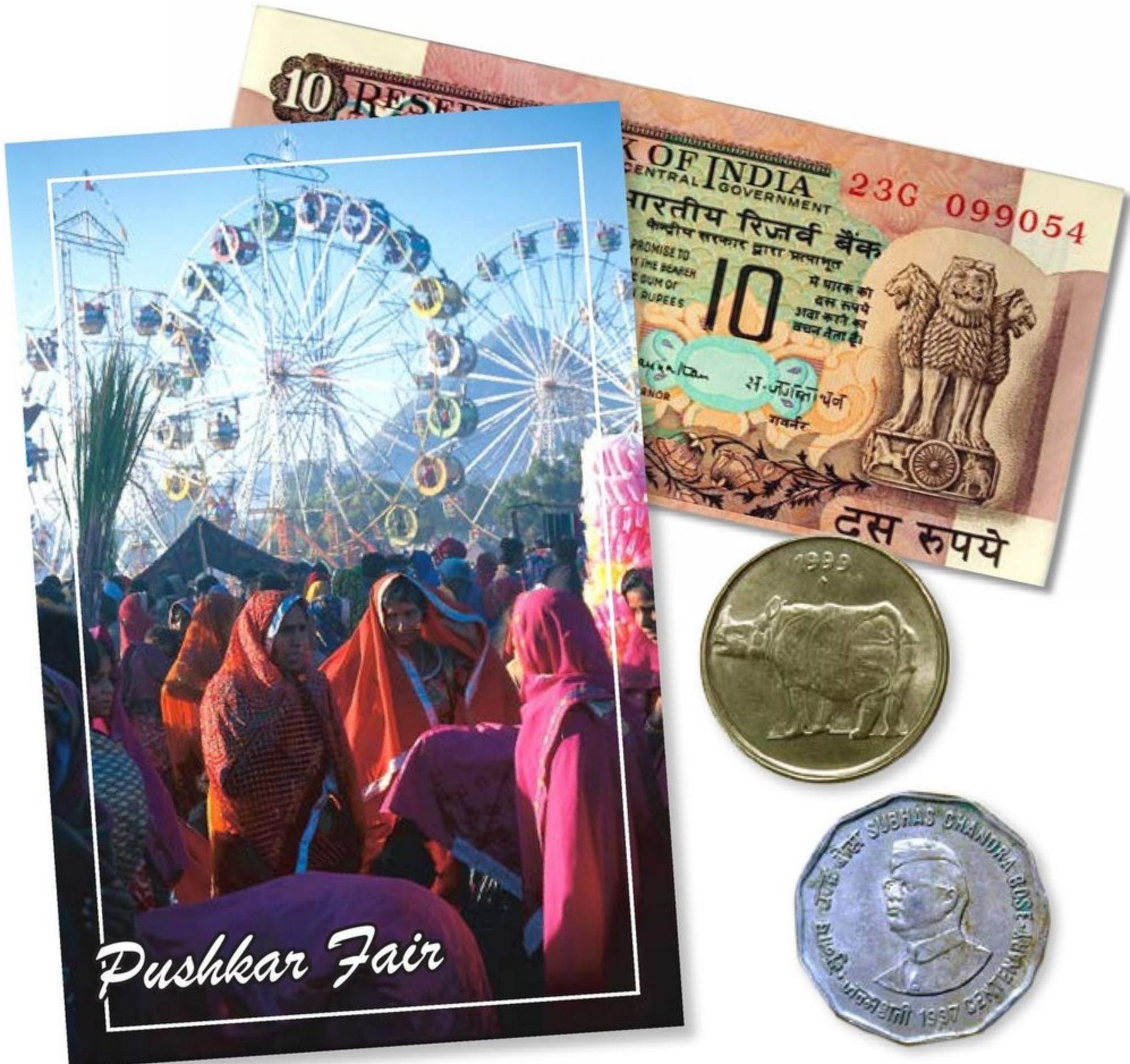
AussieAnn12 said:

I live in Sydney, Australia. I shop at Ted's Discount Store with my dad. We get T-shirts for \$20 Australian. That's about \$15.32 American. \$100 would buy you six shirts.

We have an Australian Cattle Dog named Roo.
Do you have a dog?

Good day,
Annie





Rakshi56 said:

Hello. I live in Mumbai, India. In India, no child would go shopping without his or her parents. Our parents have a strong say in what we do.

If I was out at a fair with my parents, they might buy me a T-shirt. At the fair, T-shirts cost 100 to 200 rupees. (200 rupees is \$4.56 U.S.) That means you could buy about 21 T-shirts.

But I would never buy 21 T-shirts!

Rakshi56

I posted a thank you to AussieAnn12 and Rakshi56. Then I got to updating my chart. That made three down and four to go.

	Country (Currency)	Store	T-Shirt Price	Number	Total Price	Change
1	U.S.A. (dollar)	Almo's Gigantic Store	\$4.99	20	\$99.80	\$0.20
2	Australia (dollar)	Ted's Discount Store	\$15.32	6	\$91.92	\$8.08
3	India (rupee)	Pushkar Fair	\$4.56	21	\$95.76	\$4.24
4						
5						
6						
7						

Halfway There

After school on Wednesday, I had soccer. So when I got home, I went right to my chores. I wanted to get to my blog as soon as possible.

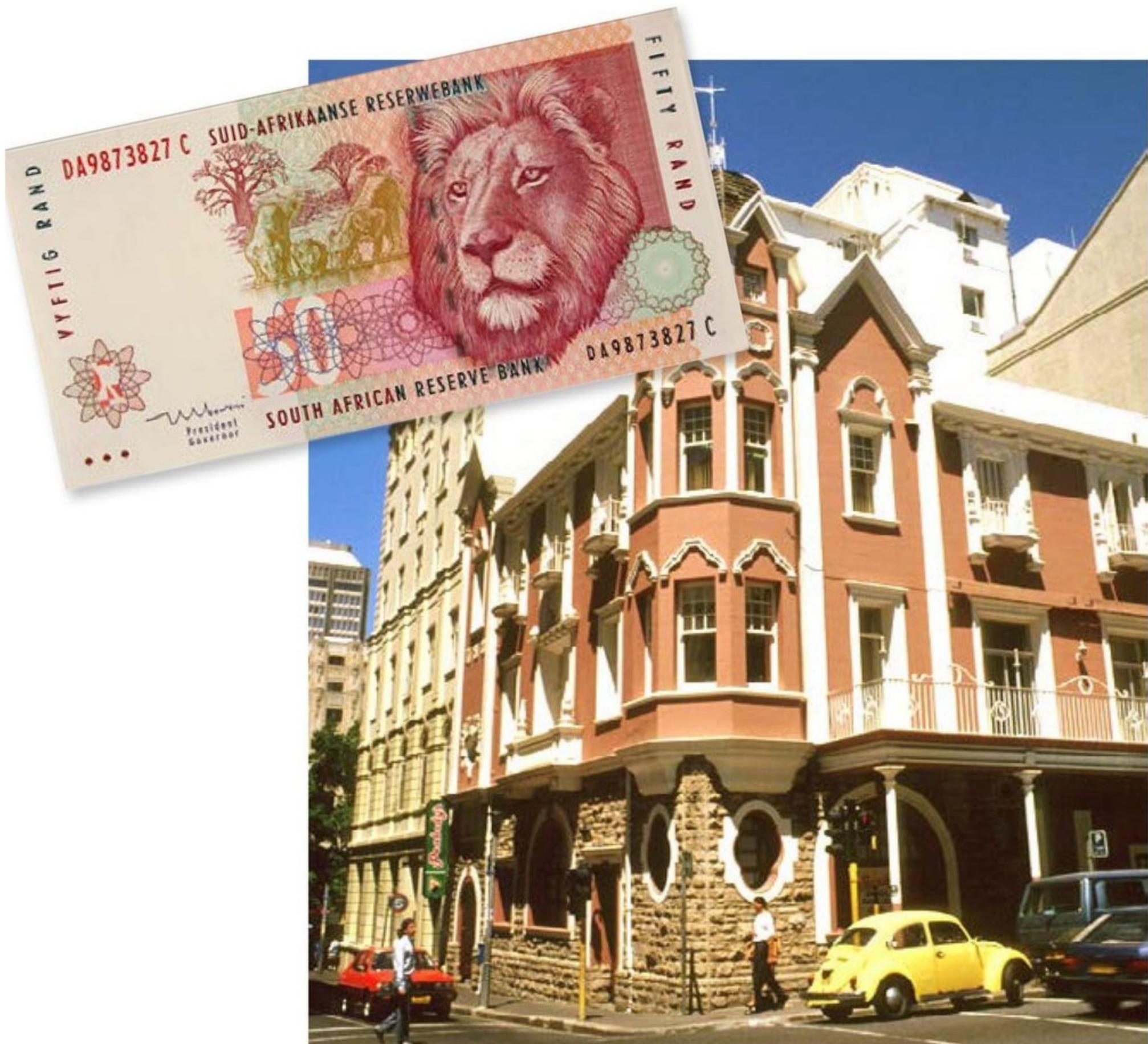
Yes! There were two comments. The first had a surprise. In South Africa, they shop at Almo's, too.

siphokid said:

I live outside of Capetown, South Africa, and we shop downtown at Almo's Gigantic Store. In South Africa, our money is called *rands*. Today, there are about six rands to every American dollar—but do you know that the number of rands to dollars changes every day? I found T-shirts on sale at Almo's for 16 rands.

By the way, did you know that Capetown has a whole museum of just T-shirts?

siphokid



LimT said:

In Singapore, we buy western style T-shirts at the mall. Most T-shirts cost 20 Singapore dollars. That's \$5.95 in U.S.A. money. So you could get 16 T-shirts here.

We wear T-shirts and jeans when we hang out at the mall. Our parents usually pay for them, so I use my money to buy CDs.



Then I posted my thanks to Sipho and Lim. I was past the halfway point, but I wasn't home free. I still had work to do to make sure I met KBQ's challenge.

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1	U.S.A. (dollar)	Almo's Gigantic Store	\$4.99	20	\$99.80	\$0.20
2	Australia (dollar)	Ted's Discount Store	\$15.32	6	\$91.92	\$8.08
3	India (rupee)	Pushkar Fair	\$4.56	21	\$95.76	\$4.24
4	S. Africa (rand)	Almo's Gigantic Store	\$2.67	37	\$98.79	\$1.21
5	Singapore (dollar)	mall	\$5.95	16	\$95.20	\$4.80
6						
7						



On Thursday, I didn't get to my blog until 8:30 P.M. Then I found responses from England and Spain waiting for me.



FineBaggage said:

Hi! My name is Cheryl. I was born in the U.S. Now I live in Sussex, England. I'd take you to Woolworth's. That's where most of the kids buy their knock-around shirts. Plain T-shirts can be bought for as little as £7. I can do the conversion on my computer. Seven British pounds sterling would be about \$12.62 in American currency. That would get seven T-shirts for you.

LawrenceofArabia said:

I'm not really from Arabia. I'm from Barcelona, Spain. For T-shirts, we shop online at Pamplona's. We used to use pesetas, but now most of Europe uses the euro. Pamplona's gives their prices in euros. The euro is trading for about 83 cents to every American dollar. The least expensive T-shirt you could buy today is 15 euros. I hope this helps!

Adios,

Carlos



The Results

I posted a thank you to Cheryl and Carlos. Finally, I had what I needed to complete KBQ's challenge successfully. I had information from seven countries! If I dropped the two totals furthest from \$100 (Australia and England), I knew that the remaining five countries would get me a total closest to \$500. I, Web Boy, had met and conquered The International T-Shirt Challenge!

	Country (Currency)	Store	T-Shirt Price	Number	Total Price	Change
1	U.S.A. (dollar)	Almo's Gigantic Store	\$4.99	20	\$99.80	\$0.20
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4	S. Africa (rand)	Almo's Gigantic Store	\$2.67	37	\$98.79	\$1.21
5	Singapore (dollar)	mall	\$5.95	16	\$95.20	\$4.80
6	England (pound)	Woolworth's	\$12.62	7	\$88.34	\$11.66
7	Spain (euro)	Pamplona's online	\$12.45	8	\$99.60	\$0.40
TOTAL				102	\$489.15	\$10.85

International Travel Master Mind Quest

Imagine you had \$5,000 U.S. dollars and seven days to complete a trip to one of the countries Web Boy used to win the International T-shirt Challenge.

- ① Use an Internet search engine, such as www.google.com, to find out how far your money will go as you research your destination.
- ② Tips to plan your trip:
 - **You need to decide where to go and create a budget.** Will you visit the United States, India, South Africa, Singapore, or Spain?
 - **You need a place to stay.** Will you stay at a hotel, a hostel, or maybe rent a room in someone's house?
 - **You need to eat.** Breakfast is often the least expensive meal on a trip, but what will lunch and dinner cost?
 - **You need a way to get there and back.** Will you fly on a plane, take a train, or maybe ride a bus? Do you need a passport?
 - **You need a way to get around your destination.** Will there be taxis, a bus system, or maybe even a subway or train system? Maybe you can walk or take local transportation, such as a rickshaw in India.
 - **You'll want to pick and choose from what activities interest you the most about the place you'll visit.** Which activities cost money; which are free?
- ③ Type search terms related to your International Travel Master Mind Quest using your ideas from "Tips to plan your trip."
- ④ Share your trip with others.

Glossary

currency	the money used in a certain country (p. 6)
Internet	a global, public computer network (p. 8)
phenomenal	amazing (p. 7)
search engine	a website that looks for information you want to find on the World Wide Web once you enter one or more words (p. 8)
strategy	a plan of how to win a game or challenge (p. 7)
stumpers	questions that are difficult to answer (p. 4)
weblog (blog)	a website with an online journal where you can post comments for anybody to read (p. 7)

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