

# The scent of money:

Nowadays, we got used to use money and looks like the best way for changing goods and services— if it is not the only one—. However, hunter-gatherers neither knew about money and cared about gold; It wasn't necessary.

In hunter-gathers groups, there were people with different skills, but they didn't specialize in anything. In fact, the creation of specialization started in big cities. Densely populated cities provided full-time employment. As an example, imagine a man who had known only how to make shoes. In a small group he wouldn't have had enough work for a living, he would have had in a big city because there were improvements in transportation and new customers appeared every day, though. Although several new opportunities appeared, a few problems too. How do you manage the exchange of goods between specialists? Maybe bartering, but what if they didn't need what the other is offering? How do you measure the value? Money solved this problem.

Perhaps, when you think about money you think about gold or bills. Actually, money is not necessary that; money is anything that people are willing to use. In modern prison, prisoners' cigarettes are their money. Another advance its ease to be transformed and in the case of bills and gold coins it's easier to transport. I find it important to remark that dollars have value only in our imagination and they'll have only until we don't trust them anymore. Trust is the raw material from which all types of money are minted. Money is also the most universal and efficient system ever devised. At first, people didn't trust entirely on the concept of money, so it was necessary to define "Money" as something else, cows or goats for example. The Sumerians were the first civilizations that used money; their money was barley.

What is awesome is their capability of being used for everyone. People had different languages, rulers, and gods but all believed in gold and silver. That happens because money's two universal principles. First, universal convertibility: "Everything has a price". Second, universal trust: with money as a go-between, any two people can cooperate. Even though it sounds perfect, there is a necessary condition on money for being used: money asks us to believe that other people believe in it.