

Alert!

To: Section Head
From: Agent Penn E. Pincher
Re: Briefing for your Section

It has come to my attention that your agents are not fully prepared to undertake the assignment given to them. By way of assistance we have provided the following briefing, to inform your agents and improve their research.

Please feel free to post this for your agents to review.

Briefing:

Money, or currency, is certainly at the very heart of trade. You will find it in a one-to-one exchange between individuals, businesses and nations. When the exchanges take place outside of our domestic borders, they are called international trade. In international trade an additional element must be considered, the use of foreign currencies. Money is the medium of exchange herein the United States, and it is important to note that money plays the same role in other countries.

Exchanges used to be facilitated with gold, gems, silver or “pieces of eight” (1/8 of a silver Spanish *reales*.) Large, heavy chests full of these precious metals and jewels had to be shipped across seas and carried by wagon or pack beast across many miles of land in order to facilitate trading. It made travel dangerous, for there were pirates at sea and highwaymen on land waiting to rob the unwary! Today, it makes for an exciting hobby, as adventurers seek sunken or buried treasure.

The following terminology may need to be refreshed with your agents.

1. Foreign Currency
2. Trade
3. Exchange Rate
4. Exports
5. Imports