

Lesson 1 – The History of Money: Traditional Societies & Bartering

Imagine you wake up and all the money in the world has disappeared. How do you think we would get the things we need, such as food, petrol, clothes, etc.?

Watch **Video 1** carefully and then complete the following **PNI** based on the Barter System:

Positive	Negative	Interesting

Read through **RES1: Trading Without Coins: The Barter Web of Southern Africa**
Complete the table, summarising what each group had to barter:

Traditional Group						
Barter items/ services						



Venda Divination Bowl



Nguni cows

Select two traditional groups that you think may have bartered with each other. Say why you think this was a possibility. _____

Do you think that bartering always went quickly, without in problems? Give two reasons for your answer. _____

In your opinion, is bartering a useful system? Why or why not? _____

Does bartering have a role in our modern world? Why or why not? _____

What skill or product would you be able to barter? _____

Lesson 1 – The History of Money: Traditional Societies & Bartering: GUIDELINE MEMO

Imagine you wake up and all the money in the world has disappeared. How do you think we would get the things we need, such as food, petrol, clothes, etc.?

Watch **Video 1** carefully and then complete the following **PNI** based on the Barter System:

Positive	Negative	Interesting
Meet other cultures	Items aren't of equal value	Items vary according to the season
Develop negotiation skills	No set value/ price	Prices could vary through negotiation
Specialise your crops/ stock/ talents instead of spending time trying to do everything	There may be no one that wants what you have	Different people have different values for the same item

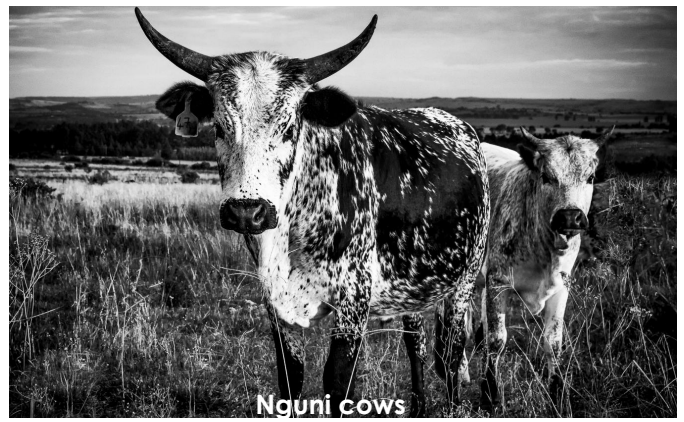
Read through **RES1: Trading Without Coins: The Barter Web of Southern Africa**

Complete the table, summarising what each group had to barter:

Traditional Group	Khoisan	Nguni	Sotho - Tswana	Venda	Tsonga	Shona
Barter items/ services	Animal skins and leather clothing. Ostrich eggshell beads. Hunting tools like bows, arrows and poison. Dried meat.	Cattle. Grain such as sorghum and millet. Iron tools and weapons. Beadwork and crafted items.	Grain and vegetables. Clay pots and baskets. Iron tools and weapons. Livestock	Agricultural produce. Iron tools. Pottery and woven goods. Ritual and ceremonial items.	Fish and dried seafood. Agricultural produce. Woven mats and baskets.	Gold. Ivory. Iron tools. Pottery and textiles.



Venda Divination Bowl



Nguni cows

Select two traditional groups that you think may have bartered with each other. Say why you think this was a possibility. **I think the Khoisan and Venda would have traded. The Khoisan did not grow crops and may have liked to have millet. The Khoisan hunted animals such as giraffe and zebra and would have had interesting animal skins to trade with the Venda.** (This is an example of an answer - it does not have to be factually correct but rather demonstrate an understanding of bartering for items you don't have.)

Do you think that bartering always went quickly, without in problems? Give two reasons for your answer. **I think bartering took a long time and may have had problems as each item's value had to be negotiated depending on what the other group had. It was probably very difficult if it was a service that was being offered instead of just an item. The value of things probably also changed every time two groups met as seasons and availability would change.** (This is an example of an answer)

In your opinion, is bartering a useful system? Why or why not? **I think bartering can be very useful as maybe you can't "afford" an item this time around but next time it's more plentiful and therefore not as "expensive". I think it keeps the difference between 'rich' and 'poor' much closer.** (This is an example of an answer)

Does bartering have a role in our modern world? Why or why not? **I think it definitely has a role, especially in a country with a high unemployment rate. If people are able to barter, for example, pay for school fees through providing a service, then being unemployed would be less of a burden.** (This is an example of an answer)

What skill or product would you be able to barter? **I would be able to bake cakes for people or take their dogs for a walk.** (This is an example of an answer)