

The Absolute Worst Currency in the World: Zimbabwe

Associated Press | Friday, November 21, 2008



While the official rate on Monday was 19,393.94 Zimbabwean dollars to the \$1 USD, the old mutual implied rate, generated from comparing the Zimbabwe and London stock exchanges, valued the currency at more than 642 quadrillion to one. When the currency was revalued this summer, an egg cost about \$35 billion Zimbabwean dollars. The shilling has been Somalia's official currency since 1962 and has been declining in value steadily since the government breakdown in 1991, when it was valued at about 2,000 Somali shillings to \$1 USD. It takes 35,000 Somali shillings to equal one dollar.

There aren't enough manat in the world to buy you a ticket to the opera, which was officially abolished by Turkmenistan's late leader, Turkmenbashi — along with the ballet, AIDS and other scourges. 24,000 Turkmen manat equal \$1. The Vietnamese currency is called the dong. Americans have a complicated history when it comes to Vietnam, but the still-communist country has a blossoming tourism industry, and visitors are usually asked to pay for everything with dollars, which trade at a dong rate of 16,975 to \$1. Sao Tome and Principe is a small island nation off the western coast of Africa and has the fifth-weakest currency in the world. A single U.S. dollar will cost you 14,350 dobra.

The largest Muslim nation in the world also has one of the least-valuable currencies in the world. It takes 11,198.40 Indonesian rupiah to buy a single U.S. dollar. Its capital city — Jakarta — is the largest city in Southeast Asia with a population of 8.5 million, about the same as New York City. Indonesia is also home to Bali, a tropical tourist paradise that was targeted by terrorists who bombed a nightclub in 2002. While Iran has been riding high on petro-dollars as oil prices skyrocketed — driving up the price of everything from a gallon of gas to an airplane ticket to a box of cereal in the U.S. — its currency has remained unimpressive. One U.S. dollar will buy you 10,179.00 rial, but don't start packing your bags. The government warns against travel to Iran as some elements of the regime remain hostile to the U.S.

The African nation of Guinea — near Guinea-Bissau and nowhere near Papua New Guinea — has the ninth-worst currency in the world, with 5,115 of its francs getting you a single U.S. dollar. Its natural resources include the aluminum ore bauxite, diamonds and gold, and the country's soccer team has never made it to the World Cup. Paraguay is the second poorest country in South America, with an unemployment rate pushing 16 percent and more than 35 percent of its population living in poverty. The Paraguay guarani runs about 4,615 to \$1. Vietnam's up-river neighbor, Laos, has been experiencing a resurgence in tourism, but it still deals in one of the worst currencies in the world. A single U.S. dollar will buy you 8,640.75 kip.

1. In appropriate paragraph form, identify a series of unique characteristics about each of the countries identified above. In your personal opinion, how might a government strengthen the value of their currency? Explain.
(GPS – Grades 6 – 8: MRC a, d)
2. AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report (Ref: fuelgaugereport.com) suggests that the mean cost for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline is valued at approximately \$2.047. Understanding the concept of ratios to represent quantitative relationships, use proportions to determine the cost of one gallon of gasoline in the following foreign currencies: Zimbabwean dollars, Somali shillings, Turkmen mantas, Vietnamese Dong, Sao Tome and Principe's dobra, Indonesia's rupiah, Iran's rial, Guinea's francs, Paraguay's guarani, and Laos' kip. What conclusions can be made as a direct result of this inquiry? What conjectures may be made provided this data?
(GPS - Grade 6: M6P1 – M6P5; MRC; M6A1; M6A2 c, g)
3. Create a table and graph which represents, describes, analyzes, and illustrates relationships between the U.S. dollar (USD) and the ten countries listed above for the cost of a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline. Describe how the change in one variable affects the other variable. Communicate your mathematical thinking clearly and coherently in each of your responses. **(GPS Grade 7: M7P1 – M7P5; MRC; M7A3 a, b, c)**
4. Represent each of the given situations (question two) using algebraic expressions or equations in one variable in terms of others. Translate each of the following word sentences into mathematical sentences which models the situation and determine the solution: a) Three times the difference of a Somali Shilling and 7; b) Seven more than five times a Vietnamese Dong is 12; c) Eight more than the quotient of a Laos' kip and 3; d) Carlos Gumarra purchased Yucatecan-Style Grilled Mahi-Mahi for \$27.94 in U.S. dollars (USD). The Mah-Mahi was valued at \$9.31 per pound (USD). Unfortunately, Carlos only has Paraguay guarani in his possession. How much more will his meal cost in guaranis versus USD? **(GPS Grade 8: M8P1 – M8P5; M8A1 a - e)**
5. Upon completion of this assignment, how far have we progressed through the 2008-09 series of *The Daughtry Times*®? Express your answer interchangeably as a fraction, decimal, percentage, and circle graph.
(GPS – Grade 6: M6N1 f, g; M6D1c; Grade 7: M7D1 f)
6. Using contextual clues only, define the following italicized words: *currency*, *abolished*, *implied*, *scourges*, and *resurgence* obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. **(GPS – Grades 6 –8: MRC a, c, d)**

Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) adapted from georgiastandards.org. Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with the curriculum map and annotated adjacent to the respective grade level inquiry.

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