

Grades: 4-5
Subjects: Math (4-5), Social Studies (4)

PRIMARY SOURCE USED

Title: "The American school-master's assistant : being a compendious system of vulgar and decimal arithmetic; containing: the usual methods of calculation of federal money dispersed throughout the whole, and adapted to the use of shools[sic] in the United States."

Link: [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/fawbib:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(cbc0011\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/fawbib:@field(DOCID+@lit(cbc0011)))

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Click on "View Page Images"
2. Locate the blank box beside "Turn to image"
3. Type in the following numbers, separately: 8, 54, 55, 56
4. For each of the four images, click on the image for a larger, downloadable jpeg

ABBREVIATIONS KEY

- d. penny (British)
- s. shilling (British)
- L. (or l.) pound (British)
- dwt. pennyweight (measures precious metal)
- gr. grain (measures precious metal)
- \$ dollar (of course!)
- c. cent

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Currency that was not in dollars was counted in pounds (as in England today). The symbol for a pound is "l." (lowercase) or "L." (uppercase). Just as dollars are divided into quarters, pennies, and other units, pounds are also divided into smaller units. See the equations at the top of image 8 for these smaller 1811 units.

Also, in 1811, the amount 4.44 was written "4,44" (with a comma used instead of a period). A pound (also called "pound sterling") was worth 4 dollars and 44 cents. "Sterling" refers to currency in pounds.