

INVESTIGATION AT THE MUSEUM OF THE NATIONAL BANK!





NOTES



Before it became the Museum of the National Bank of Belgium, the building where you are was a commercial bank called the *Union du Crédit de Bruxelles*, or the UCB. In the basement we found a secret chest.

We cannot open it because we do not know the code!

Perhaps you can find it?

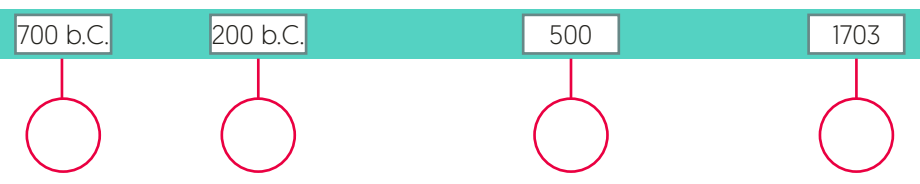
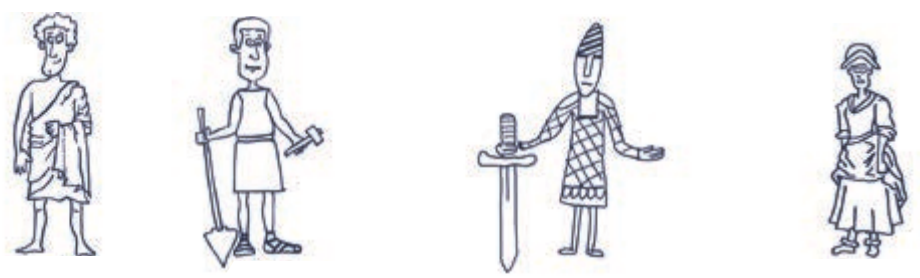
During your investigation in the museum, you will learn a lot about banks and money.

Good luck, junior detective!

1 A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

What did coins and banknotes look like in the olden days?

Travel through time and set off in search of these people and their means of payment. Enter the letter for the coin or banknote under the appropriate person.



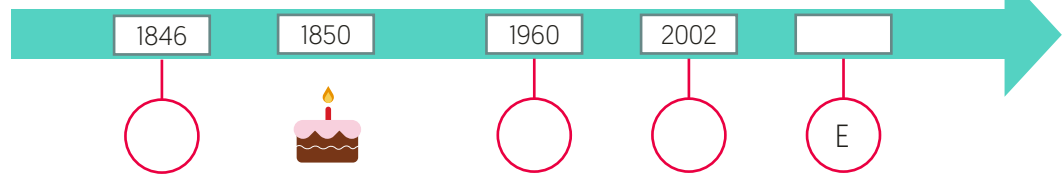
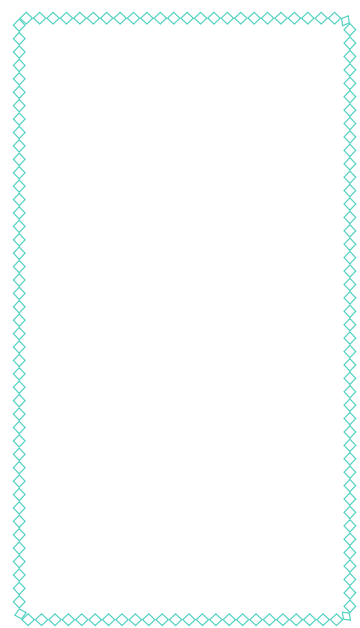
Triens Belgian franc note Drachm Belgian franc note

In what year did euro banknotes come into use?
Add up all the figures in that date and you will find the first digit of the code to open the box.

$$\bigcirc + \bigcirc + \bigcirc + \bigcirc = \bigcirc$$



Draw a picture of yourself and enter your date of birth in the timeline.



Euro note from the "Europa" series Denier Ducaton Euro note from the first series

2 TOUR OF THE WORLD'S CURRENCIES

Did you know that many years ago, people in China used tea to pay for things? In the old days there were no coins, banknotes, bank cards or smartphones for making payments.

People used various goods for payment, such as natural or man-made items.

These surprising means of payment are called **commodity money**.

Use the tablets if you want to find out more about commodity money.

Did you know...



Money is used for:

- **Payment**, when you buy something.
- **Making comparisons** and doing calculations, e.g. to find something cheaper.
- **Saving**, in a money box or a bank account to be used later.

Look carefully at the boxes.

Join each box to the material that you can see inside it. Then join each word to the corresponding commodity money.



• Salt •

• Tea •

• Feathers •

• Beaver pelt •



3 THE EURO, A COMMON CURRENCY

Since 2002, Belgium – along with 11 other countries – has used euro coins and banknotes. As of 1 January 2023, there are 20 countries that use this common currency. The banknotes are identical in all countries. However, the coins have one common side and one side with a distinctive national design.

Look at the map of the countries that use the euro.

On the next page, write the name of each of those countries alongside the corresponding coin and flag.



4 AND YOUR BANKNOTE?


How do you know whether a banknote is genuine or a forgery?

A banknote has numerous security features:

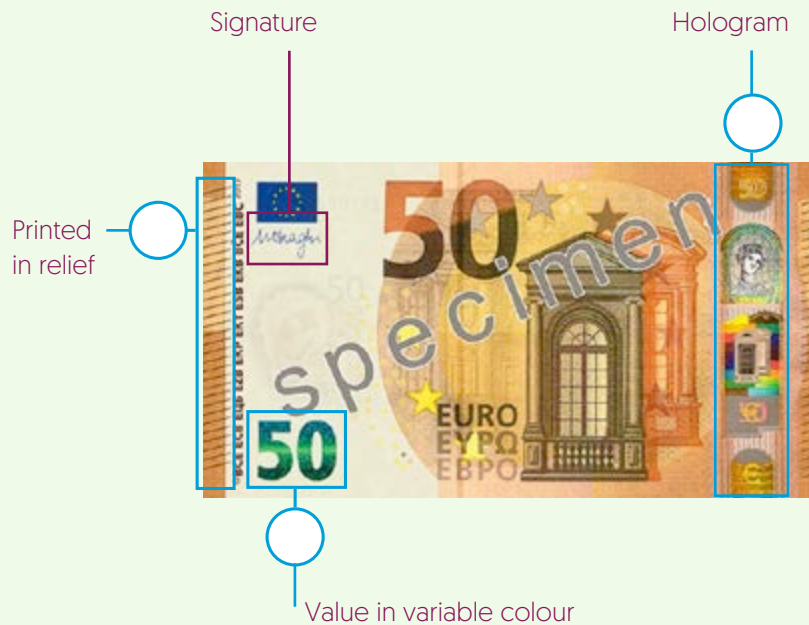
- ① that you can **feel** by touching it
- ② that you can **see** if you put the banknote in front of a light source
- ③ that change if you **tilt** your banknote

Enter the numbers of the security feature ① ② or ③ in the appropriate circles.

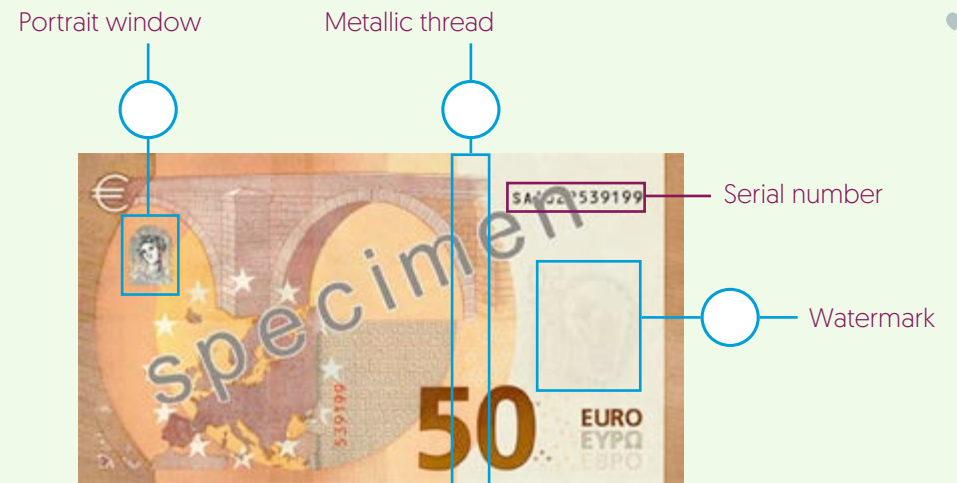
Look at the contents of the transparent barrel.
The material in it is used to make euro banknotes.
Do you know what that material is?



FRONT



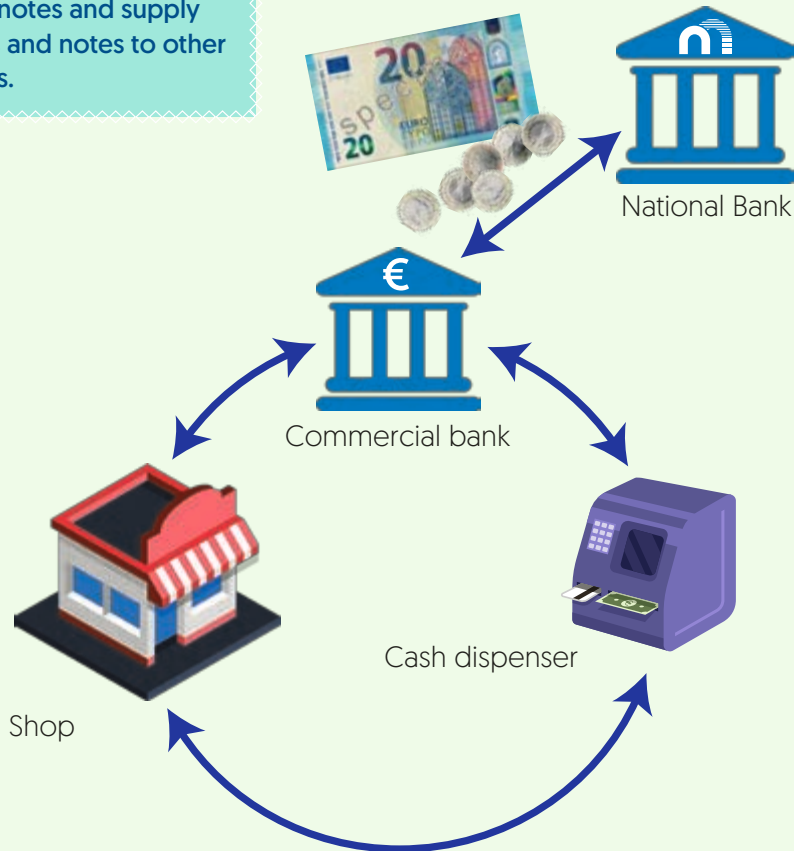
BACK



5 THE ROUTE FOLLOWED BY A BANKNOTE

During its life a banknote will pass through many different places.
Draw a circle round the places you have already been to.

We often use coins and banknotes to pay for our purchases. In Belgium, only the National Bank is allowed to print banknotes and supply coins and notes to other banks.



6 PANIC OUTSIDE THE BANK!

Find this picture in the museum (see plan no. 6).

A jostling crowd of people has gathered outside the bank. They want their money back at all costs! This picture clearly shows how customers panic when a bank has money worries.

Nowadays, the National Bank **helps and supervises** the banks so that their customers can always be sure of getting their money back.

The picture below is not the same as the one in the museum. How many differences can you spot? That is the second digit in the code!



7 INFLATION? PRICES GO UP!

In the display case you can see a set of banknotes. What huge amounts! And yet, these banknotes are not worth very much. They were used at a time when prices of goods were escalating very rapidly. That is known as hyperinflation.

Prices went up so much that you needed a wheelbarrow full of banknotes to buy a loaf of bread!

Here is a little puzzle. Can you find the correct banknote in the display case?

- The value of the banknote is greater than 5000
- This banknote is very colourful
- You can see a person depicted on this banknote
- The person on the banknote does not have a moustache
- The person is wearing glasses

What is the first digit of the value of this banknote? It is the third digit of the code!

The National Bank of Belgium's most important job is to do everything possible **to ensure that the prices of things people buy do not go up too fast. To ensure that there is not excessive inflation!**

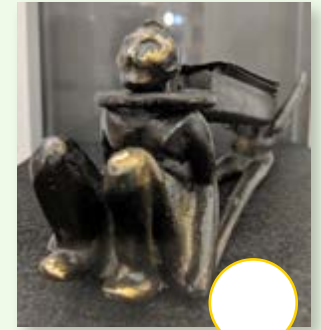
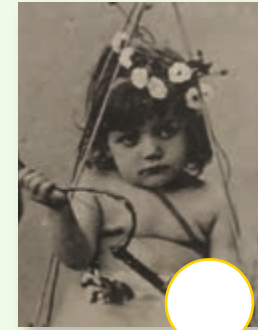
The aim is that, in a year's time, you can still buy as much with the money that you have in your money box or bank account as you can today.

8 IN THE SAFE-DEPOSIT BOXES...

In front of you is a row of safe-deposit boxes lined up against the wall, numbered from 1 to 47.

Money is not the only thing that is valuable.

Below you can see three items that people keep in their safe-deposit box. Find them and enter the corresponding box number in the circle.



To find the last digit in the code, now do a simple sum. Just add up the first digits of each number.

For example, if you found the number 17, use the digit 1.

$$\dots + \dots + \dots = \bigcirc$$

9 DID YOU KNOW...

The National Bank of Belgium used to ask prominent artists to design the banknotes.

So a banknote is not just a means of payment, it is also a work of art!

Look at the various designs set out on the big table and find the five details below. Make a note of the letter accompanying the text – the caption – explaining the designs.

Put the letters in the right order to give the name of the Belgian currency used after the First World War.

And no, it is not the franc!

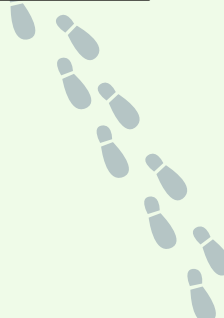


The word that you have just found is the name of a currency used in Belgium between 1926 and 1946. One unit of that currency was worth five Belgian francs.



FEEL FREE TO USE YOUR IMAGINATION!

... and design your own banknote!



Now that you know a bit more about money, the National Bank and the euro, find all these words in the grid below.

Money
Drachm
Price
Signature
Franc

Coin
Museum
Tea
Counter
Bank

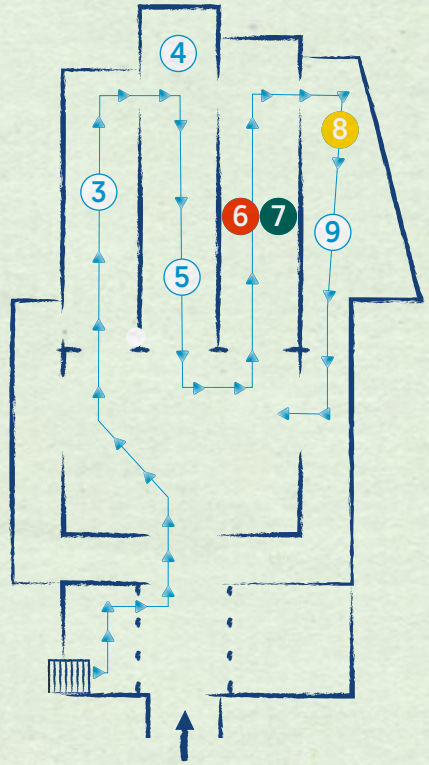
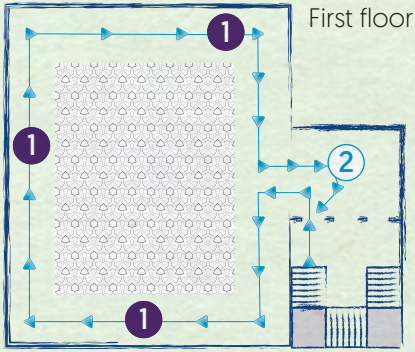
Banknote
Hologram
Denier

N	U	H	L	Z	Z	D	A	E	K	N	K
J	T	O	C	N	A	R	F	G	B	P	M
R	Q	L	A	B	D	R	A	C	H	M	U
E	T	O	N	K	N	A	B	A	U	E	E
K	K	G	N	I	O	C	O	R	A	R	S
O	N	R	E	I	N	E	D	R	R	U	U
Q	W	A	Ç	B	P	L	E	T	B	T	M
Ç	Q	M	B	B	L	T	C	S	R	A	M
V	A	E	T	H	N	A	I	I	M	N	Ç
X	I	U	V	U	I	K	R	F	I	G	T
Y	E	N	O	M	C	Z	P	U	L	I	K
C	U	C	G	T	C	E	P	U	N	S	S

Join the dots and find out what is hiding.

What is it ?





The activities numbered 1, 6, 7 and 8 will reveal the 4 digits of the code.

ENTER THE SECRET CODE NUMBERS BELOW:



Museum
of the National Bank of Belgium

📍 Rue Montagne aux Herbes Potagères 57
1000 Brussels
02 221 22 06
Open Monday to Friday, 09.00 to 17.00
www.nbbmuseum.be



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