

Colonial Money Math

The colonists used the same money system they had used in England. Dollars and cents did not come into widespread use until much later. Here are the money units the colonists used:

1 Pound (£1) = 20 Shillings
1 Shilling = 12 Pence (pennies)
1 Pence = 4 Farthings
1 Guinea = 21 Shillings

Use the rates above to solve the following conversion problems:

1. 2 pounds = _____ shillings
2. 2 shillings = _____ pence
3. 1 pound and 1 guinea = _____ shillings
4. 3 pence = _____ farthings
5. 2 shillings and 3 pence = _____ pence
6. 3 guinea = _____ shillings
7. 3 pounds and 1 guinea = _____ shillings
8. 12 farthings = _____ pence
9. 2 pounds 1 guinea = _____ shillings
10. 24 pence = _____ shillings

Use the rates again to answer the word problems below:

1. Hope and Sarah sold ten extra eggs from their hens. They sold each egg for four farthings. How much did they earn?

2. How much is that in pence?

3. The girls split the money evenly. How many pence did they earn each?

4. Charles plowed the east field for his neighbor, Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown agreed to pay Charles two pounds for each day of work. It took Charles 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ days of working to finish the job. How many shillings did Charles earn?

5. Martha knit stockings over the winter to sell. She knit ten pairs. If each pair sells for 1 shilling, how much money will she earn?

6. How many pence would Martha earn?

7. Truth has saved all the money his father has given him on his birthdays. He was given 1 guinea each year. Since he is ten years old now, how many shillings does he have?

8. Calculate how many pounds and shillings Truth has saved.

Name _____ Date _____

Answer Key

1. 40 shillings
2. 24 pence
3. 41 shillings
4. 12 farthings
5. 27 pence
6. 63 shillings
7. 81 shillings
8. 3 pence
9. 61 shillings
10. 2 shillings

1. 40 farthings
2. 10 pence
3. 5 pence each
4. 50 shillings
5. 10 shillings
6. 120 pence
7. 210 shillings
8. 10 pounds 10 shillings