Colonial Math at Jamestown Settlement

GRADE LEVEL: 5-7

SKILLS: Number conversion and multiplication

OBJECTIVE: Students will explore the British monetary system, and convert monetary units to solve math problems.

WHAT'S INSIDE?
A British Money Mini-Poster
British Monetary Math Worksheet

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ENGLISH MONEY AT JAMESTOWN

English settlers traded goods like animal furs, metal tools, and guns when doing business with the Powhatan people in Virginia. They used English money when doing business with each other and with people back in England. **Note:** Make sure they understand that the terms "British" and "English" are both used to refer to items from England.

- 1 pound (£1) was worth 20 shillings
- 1 shilling was worth 12 pence (or pennies)
- 1 penny was worth 4 farthings
- 1 guinea was worth 21 shillings.

These are pictures of the coins English settlers at Jamestown would have used.

https://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/TM/WS_colonial_arithmetic.shtml
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ENGLISH MONEY AT JAMESTOWN

NAME ___________________________         DATE _______________________

PROBLEMS
The problems below show the kinds of arithmetic problems children who lived in Jamestown might have had to solve. Use the graphic about British money to help you figure them out.

- 1 pound = _______ pence
- 1 shilling = ______ farthings
- 2 guineas = ______ shillings
- 100 farthings = ______ shillings ______ pence
- 6 shillings 3 pence = ______ pence
- 30 pence = ______ shillings ______ pence
- 488 pence = ______ pounds ______ pence
- 504 pence = ______ guineas
- 5 pounds = ______ guineas ______ shillings
- 2 guineas 6 pence = ______ farthings

EXTRA CHALLENGE
Sarah and Nathaniel sold the extra vegetables from their garden to travelers on the road from Jamestown to Williamsburg. They sold 32 tomatoes for 1 farthing each, 16 bunches of carrots for 1 pence a bunch, 96 ears of corn for 1 shilling a dozen, and 48 potatoes at two for 1 pence.

How much money did they make in pence? __________________________

How many shillings did they each earn? __________________________

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