Piggy tilted his head as he watched his dad hand their neighbor, Mr. Rabbit, a basket of carrots. Then, Mr. Rabbit gave Piggy's dad a crate full of apples and a loaf of bread before they both shook hands.

"Nice doing business with you, Mr. Rabbit," said Piggy's dad. "These look delicious."

Mr. Rabbit chuckled. "My pleasure. It's nice to know we can still barter to get what we need."

Piggy couldn't wait to ask his dad what Mr. Rabbit meant by "barter". He thought you always paid for things with dollar bills or coins. At least, that's how he'd seen Mr. Rabbit pay for carrots last month.

"Dad, I have a question about Mr. Rabbit," said Piggy as they drove off in their red pickup truck.

"Go ahead, son. What would you like to know?"

"I don't understand why he gave you apples and bread instead of money for the carrots. Aren't the carrots still worth money?" asked Piggy.

"Yes," Piggy's dad smiled. "But this time, Mr. Rabbit and I agreed to barter instead of exchange cash."

"Barter?" asked Piggy. "What's that?"

"Well, a long time ago, before money existed, we used to exchange things that were of equal value," said Piggy's dad.

Piggy looked puzzled.

"It was a way to give away something you no longer want or need for something that you do. But today, we use paper money, coins, plastic, and even electronic payments to pay for the things we want," Piggy's dad continued.

"Wow! Does that mean I can give you my tricycle for your truck?" asked Piggy.

"Not exactly," Piggy's dad chuckled. "Bartering works for things that cost about the same amount."

Piggy thought for a moment about what his dad said.

"Oh, I think I get it! I can trade something I have for my friend Jimmy's new skateboard."

"Yes, but both of you have to agree to the exchange," said Piggy's dad.

Seconds after Piggy's dad parked the truck in their driveway, Piggy jumped out and sprinted to the front door of their home.

"Piggy, wait!" his dad called. "Where are you off to in such a hurry?"

"I'm going to see if I can barter for a new skateboard!"
HOLIDAY HOURS

All Wescom branches and the Member Contact Center (phone, chat, and email) will be closed in observance of Independence Day on Saturday, July 4th.

Seeds of Savings Activity

Planting seeds and giving them proper care can help plants to grow quickly. For example, snap peas start as small seedlings. But with regular attention, sunlight, and water, they can grow and be ready to harvest in as little as two months.

Just like plants, your money can bloom with proper care. Make regular deposits into a savings account and watch your money grow.

Activity: Set a savings goal and pick seeds to grow. Track the growth of your seeds along with the growth of your savings.

Example:

Seedlings: Snap Peas

Initial Savings Deposit: $20

Seeds planted on July 4, 2020 (date)

Savings deposited on July 4, 2020 (date)

Seeds ready to harvest on September 4, 2020 (date)

Savings ready to withdraw on September 4, 2020 (date)

How much did your initial savings deposit grow? ______________________________

Now it’s your turn.

Seedlings: ____________________________

Initial Savings Deposit: $_______________________

Seeds planted on _________________________ (date)

Savings deposited on _________________________ (date)

Seeds ready to harvest on _________________________ (date)

Savings ready to withdraw on _________________________ (date)

How much did your initial savings deposit grow? ______________________________

4th of July - Fun Facts

★ Americans will eat 150 million hot dogs on July 4th.
★ Los Angeles, California residents consume about 30 million pounds of hot dogs each year. That’s more than any other city in the country.
★ Calvin Coolidge, the 30th U.S. President, was born on July 4th. He’s the only American president who was born on Independence Day.
★ Ice cream is the most popular July 4th dessert among Americans.

Sources: https://www.hot-dog.org/media/consumption-stats
https://www.heritage.org/commentary/coolidge-only-president-born-the-fourth-july