

From Problem to Protocol

Students listen to the story of Satoshi and the Genesis of Bitcoin. Through guided pauses and discussion, they connect the narrative to prior lessons on value, scarcity, time and energy, analogue vs digital systems, and safety and privacy. The teacher uses a printed “white paper” prop to dramatize the moment Satoshi presents his idea to the world. Students reflect on how Bitcoin began as a proposal, required hard work to build, and depends on participants to keep the network alive.

 ACTIVITY TYPE Story time · Discussion · Reflection	 DURATION 45–60 min	 PARTICIPATION Whole class · Pairs · Individual
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OBJECTIVES

By the end of this activity, learners will:

- Explain who Satoshi is in simple terms.
- Describe what a white paper is.
- Identify the Genesis Block as the beginning of Bitcoin.
- Explain why Bitcoin requires time, energy, and shared rules.
- Recognize that networks stay alive when people participate.

MATERIALS

- Printed copy of the story (See Appendix A) — [A · Mina and the Lemonade Stand \(Example Story\)](#)
- Printed “White Paper” prop (See Appendix B) — [B · Simplified White Paper Prop](#)
- Three keyword cards: VALUE - TIME & ENERGY - TRUST & PRIVACY (See Appendix C)
- Whiteboard and markers
- Exit slips or small paper
- Printed image of a chain of blocks, Small envelope labeled ‘BTC’ (*nice to have*)
- Whiteboard or Projector (optional) (*nice to have*)

PROCEDURE

OPENING

- Print the story and place the “White Paper” prop inside an envelope labeled BTC for a dramatic reveal.
- Write on the board: What happens when money systems fail?
- Prepare three keyword cards: VALUE • TIME & ENERGY • TRUST & PRIVACY.
- Draw a simple “BANK – CLOSED” sign on the board to spark curiosity.
- Pre-select and mark 3–4 pause points in the story for guided discussion.

PRE-ACTIVITY

5 minutes

1. Ask students: “What would happen if a bank closed and people couldn’t get their money?”
2. Write responses on the board. Connect briefly to previous chapters (Value, Scarcity, Trust)
3. Do not explain Bitcoin yet. Build curiosity.
4. Show students the sealed envelope labeled BTC.
5. Say: “Inside this envelope is an idea that changed money forever.”

Objective In Student’s Words

- “We are going to learn how Bitcoin started and why people choose to keep it alive.”

ACTIVITY

20–25 minutes

Setup

1. Students sit in a circle or attentive listening formation.
2. Holds the printed story and white paper prop.

Carry Out

1. Read the story aloud with natural pacing.
2. Pause briefly at key moments:
 - When the bank closes – What is the problem?
 - When Satoshi works late – Why is effort important?
 - When the white paper is presented – What does it mean to share an idea with the world?
 - When Genesis Block is mentioned – What does beginning mean?
 - When the network must stay alive – Who keeps it alive?
3. Keep pauses short to preserve immersion.

Reflection

- Whole class discussion:
 - Why does Bitcoin need participants?
 - What happens if people stop caring about the rules?
- Connect to prior chapters:
 - Value – Why must Bitcoin be scarce?
 - Time & Energy – Why does Proof of Work matter?
 - Analogue vs Digital – How is Bitcoin different from paper money?
 - Safety & Privacy – Why must we protect keys?

FOLLOW-UP

2 minutes

- Students complete one exit sentence:
 - Bitcoin began when _____.
 - Satoshi presented _____ to the world.
 - The network stays alive when _____.
- Collect responses.
- Set-up the next activity by mentioning that we will explore where Satoshi disappeared to.

CLOSE

- Collect exit slips and any reflection sheets.
- Ask students to return printed story copies, prompt cards, and materials to the designated area.
- Have students neatly stack chairs or reset the seating layout if it was changed for storytelling.
- Ensure the white paper prop and appendix materials are stored safely for future use.
- Prepare the room for the next class or transition students calmly to the next scheduled activity.

NOTES

Classroom management

- Set clear listening expectations.
- Use call-back signals for transitions.
- Keep discussion focused and time-bound.

Extensions & Sponge Activities

- Write a letter to Satoshi explaining how you would protect the future of money.
- Draw the Genesis Block using three symbols: chain, clock, lock.
- Roleplay Satoshi presenting the white paper.

Differentiation

- Younger students: Shorten reading segments and focus on problem–idea–solution structure.
- ELL/Accessibility: Pre-teach vocabulary: proposal, genesis, network, effort, participant.
- Safety: Provide sentence starters for exit tasks.