What Do You Actually Own?

Asset cards | Ages 13-18 | Read together or print single-sided and cut between cards.

A A silver coin you hold

You legally own one genuine silver coin outright and keep it at home. It is fully paid for, not pledged as collateral, and no vault or fund holds it for you.

What is physically in your possession? Does anyone have to repay a debt or deliver the coin to you? Name a risk that still remains.

Map: Physical Gold & Silver [M]

B A $1,000 bank deposit

You have one ordinary savings account containing $1,000 at an FDIC-insured U.S. bank. You have no other deposits at that bank, no beneficiaries, and no unpaid interest to add.

What does the bank owe you? Are particular banknotes set aside as your property? Which protection card applies?

Banking Lesson 01 [L1]; protection card 1

C Ten shares through a broker

Your cash brokerage account credits you with 10 fully paid shares of a public company, held in street name. The broker is a SIPC member. There is no margin borrowing or securities-lending agreement.

Who records your beneficial interest? Who is named upstream on the issuer record? Which parts of the custody chain must work?

Securities Lesson 01 [L2]; protection cards 2-3

All examples are fictional. Use U.S. banking and brokerage rules for the named protections. Record your answers on page 4. Source codes refer to the Teacher Guide.

What changes under stress?

Event cards | In the short session, use Event 1 or 2 plus Event 3. Others are extensions.

1 The bank fails

The bank in Card B is closed because it cannot meet its obligations. The $1,000 account and its eligibility are correctly documented.

Identify the failed obligation and the applicable protection. Does the closure itself establish that the insured $1,000 is lost?

Match the event to the asset card and consult page 3.

2 Shares are missing

The broker in Card C enters a SIPC liquidation. Records confirm the customer position, but some customer securities are missing.

Identify the custody problem. What might restore property, and what extra facts would you need before estimating a final recovery?

Match the event to the asset card and consult page 3.

3 The price falls

The company remains operating and all 10 shares remain correctly recorded, but their market price falls from $100 to $70 each.

Calculate the new value and loss. Has the number of shares changed? Is this the same problem as Event 2?

Match the event to the asset card and consult page 3.

4 The coin is stolen

The coin in Card A is stolen from its owner. No insurance or other recovery is assumed for this exercise.

Name the risk. Did a bank, issuer, or broker fail to repay or deliver the holding? What responsibility came with direct possession?

Match the event to the asset card and consult page 3.

Read the protection cards

Reference sheet | Keep this page available during the activity. Rules checked November 4, 2026.

1 Bank deposits: coverage has a scope

Eligible deposits are insured up to $250,000 per depositor, per FDIC-insured bank, per ownership category. Deposits in the same category at the same bank are combined. FDIC insurance has U.S. government backing; it protects covered dollars, not their future purchasing power.

Use for Event 1. Source [F].

2 Broker failure: return of customer property

In a SIPC liquidation, customer property is used to restore customer holdings. SIPC advances can help cover a shortfall, generally up to $500,000 per customer in a separate capacity, including up to $250,000 for cash. Eligibility and the kind of claim matter. Ordinary market losses are excluded.

Use for Events 2-3. The limit is not a cap on all customer assets that can be returned. Source [S].

3 Shares: rights through a custody chain

The broker records you as beneficial owner. In a typical DTC arrangement, Cede & Co. is the registered holder on the issuer's records. A security entitlement includes rights against the intermediary and a property interest in the relevant pool. Asset-maintenance duties and general customer-priority protections apply, with important statutory exceptions.

Use with Card C. Check UCC 8-503, 8-504, and 8-511. Sources [E, U1-U3].

A protection has an eligible holding, a triggering event, limits, and an institution or legal mechanism behind it. Identify all four before assuming that a loss is covered.

Map the holding and the promise

Core worksheet | Use the shared cards on pages 1-3. A connected device is optional.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Predict: Does a number on a financial statement tell you everything about ownership and access? Explain briefly.

1. TRACE THE RELATIONSHIP

Holding	What right or property do you have?	Who holds it or owes performance?	What could interrupt access or reduce value?
A. Coin			
B. Bank deposit			
C. Brokerage shares			

Optional online check: Open monetarymastery.net/pages/risk. Compare the Bank Deposit, Securities, and Gold & Silver sections with your answers. Add or correct one point.

2. TEST ONE FAILURE EVENT AND ONE PRICE EVENT

Failure event 1 or 2: What failed? What protection applies? Which fact would you check next?

Price event 3: New share value: $_____ Loss: $_____
Explain whether a repayment or custody promise has failed.

Explain the difference

Core discussion and exit | Optional assessment below

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. How is holding a coin different from holding a bank's promise to repay? Connect your answer to Banking Lesson 01.

2. How is a fall in share price different from missing customer securities? Connect your answer to the securities lesson.

3. Before accepting "It is protected," what would you ask about the holding, the event, the limits, and the entity or law behind the protection?

EXIT SENTENCE

I hold _____. I depend on _____ to

_____. A protection or remaining risk is _____.

OPTIONAL ASSESSMENT | 5-10 MINUTES

A. A vault stores a specifically identified silver bar you own outright. You have title, but the vault temporarily stops deliveries. Do you have ownership, possession, or both? What risk is shown?

B. Explain one reason why returning the same number of dollars might not restore the same purchasing power. Connect to Pack 05.

Follow the lesson into the books

Optional reading lab | Choose one route. Allow reading time, then 15-20 minutes to respond.

Name: _____ Route: Rothbard / Webb

> **Route A - storage and a claim:** Read Rothbard, What Has Government Done to Our Money?, Part I, section 12, Money Warehouses, opening passage on printed pages 55-58 of the 2024 sixth edition. Then revisit What Actually Happens in Banking Lesson 01. Use MLMF's reading guide [B2] to reach the book.

> **Route B - securities under stress:** Read Webb, The Great Taking, chapter III, Security Entitlement, printed pages 9-15 in version 1.4. Compare the securities lesson's parts 1-3 and the three UCC rules on protection card 3. Use MLMF's reading guide [B1].

1. Record the passage. Give the author, edition, page, and a short paraphrase of the argument you are examining.

2. Apply it. Route A: compare a receipt for stored property with an ordinary bank deposit. Route B: describe a situation in which pooled holdings and priority could affect recovery.

3. Check the scope. Route A: which part is Rothbard's warehouse model, and which describes today's deposit account? Route B: identify a legal protection, an exception, and a broader conclusion that requires additional evidence.

Use your own words. Cite the passage rather than copying a chapter. Edition pagination can differ; confirm the named section. The full source addresses are in the Teacher Guide.

A shortfall and a source check

Optional extensions | 10 minutes for the model; viewing time plus 15 minutes for the documentary

Name: _____ Date: _____

THE RISK MAP'S 300 / 240 EXAMPLE

Three customers each have a recorded entitlement to 100 shares of the same company. Only 240 shares are available. For this classroom model, assume an equal proportional division, no competing claims, and no recoveries or protection payments yet.

Question	Your calculation
Total recorded shares	
Available fraction of the recorded total	
Shares allocated to each customer in this model	
Shortfall per customer before any further recovery	

Why can these numbers alone not tell you each customer's final legal recovery?

DOCUMENTARY CONNECTION: STOP IT! THE GREAT TAKING

Your teacher will preview and choose an excerpt from MLMF's documentary page [D]. Activate the site's player yourself if prompted. Record the exact excerpt you watched.

Start / end timestamps: _____

Claim: Paraphrase one point about custody or priority. Which lesson or book passage does it connect to?

Evidence: Which source supports the point? What condition or further evidence would you need to assess its application in a crisis?

The proportional division is an arithmetic illustration, not a forecast or a substitute for insolvency rules. A share shortfall, a dollar valuation, and a final payout are different quantities.