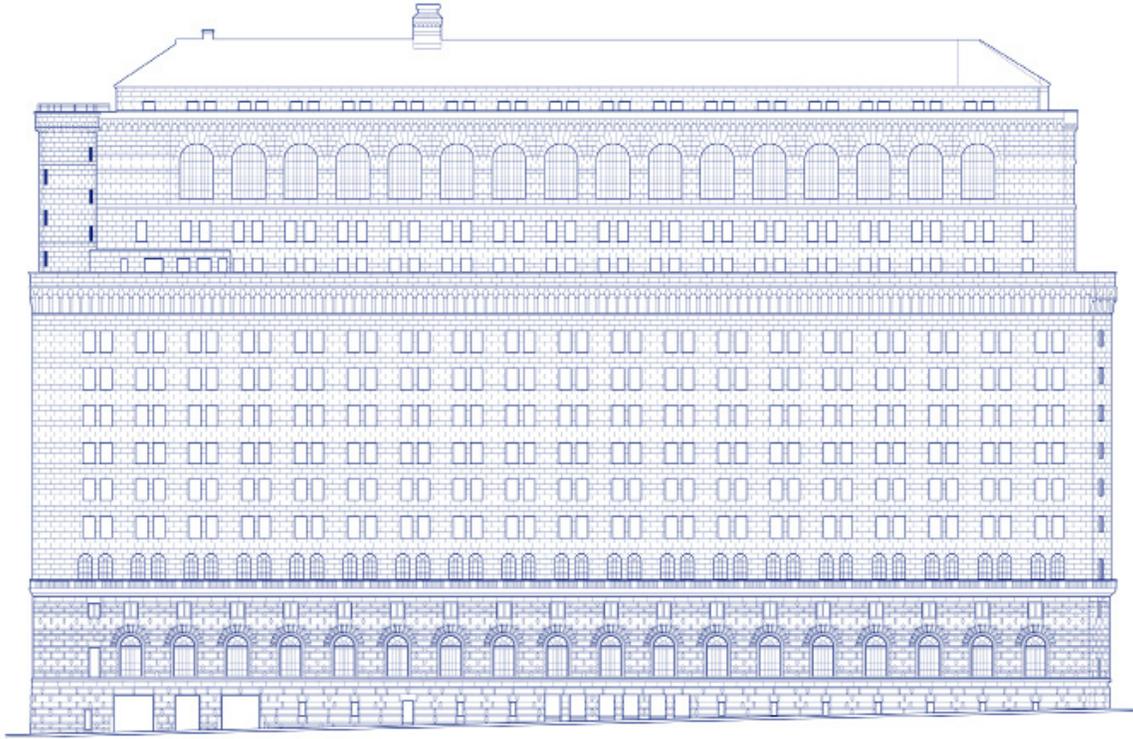


How Does the Federal Reserve System Affect You?

A **middle school** lesson plan companion to a visit to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York Museum and Learning Center



Focus Question

How does the Federal Reserve System affect you?

Lesson Objective/Teaching Point

Students will be able to articulate what a central bank is and what makes a central bank different from other banks.

New York State Education Department Civic Participation Practices

- History, geography, economics, and current events within our country and in our global society.
- Use techniques and strategies to be an active and engaged member of class discussions of fellow classmates' views and statements.
- Analyze and evaluate news (news literacy), media, social media, and other sources of information for accuracy, bias, reliability, and credibility.

This document contains both a pre- and post-visit lesson plan
Recommended Time: Pre-visit: 30 minutes; Post-visit: 15 minutes



Resources/Materials

Pre-Visit

- **Handout 1: Banks vs Central Banks Venn Diagram** (Pg. 4)
- What is the Fed? Video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLyh5fSTLLw>
- Additional Videos:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLyh5fSTLLw&list=PL_ooHi_O51Z85_lvnW-MUJCfmW_b4Eq5y&pp=iAQB
- **Handout 2: Find the Fed** (Pgs. 5-6)
- Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, The New York Public Library. "Financial district map of New York City" The New York Public Library Digital Collections. 1921.
<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/ad24d970-f79f-0130-87b8-58d385a7b928>

Post-Visit

- Kahoot! Tutorial Video: <https://youtu.be/rZUew1wlQts>
- Kahoot! Instructions: <https://kahoot.com/blog/2019/03/04/how-to-get-started-with-kahoot/>
- Post-Visit Kahoot!: <https://create.kahoot.it/share/post-visit-middle-school/280520ec-d115-449f-b7e5-e71146c918c0>
- Additional Lesson Plans and Educational Resources from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York:
<http://www.newyorkfed.org/outreach-and-education/ny-fed-content-for-educators>

Have questions about your upcoming visit?

Check out our FAQ page:

http://www.newyorkfed.org/aboutthefed/tour_reservation_faqs.html

Need more information? Email: frbnytours@ny.frb.org



Pre-Visit

Introduce the Lesson/Motivate Students

Remind students they will be visiting the Federal Reserve Bank of New York Museum and Learning Center soon!

Tell students that the Federal Reserve Bank of New York is a part of the Federal Reserve System (sometimes called “The Fed.”) Explain to students that in class today they will get an introduction to the Federal Reserve System.

Introduce the Lesson/Motivate Students

Start with some warm-up questions.

1. Ask students: What are some of the banks you see in your neighborhood?
2. If you were to go to one of these banks, what might you do there? (Deposit, withdrawal, start an account, use an ATM, get a loan, etc.) As students share their responses, list them on the board and make sure to define or reiterate answers. Explain to students that these are all banking services.
3. Take a poll of the class: Do you think banks ever need banking services? Tell students to raise their hands if they think the answer is yes, no, or maybe/not sure.
 - a.) If most students aren’t sure, give them an example: A bank in your neighborhood has too much cash and cannot fit all the cash in their vault. What does this bank need to do? Make a deposit! Where? The Federal Reserve!

Explain to students the role of a **central bank**: When a commercial bank (or a bank that people and businesses use) in your neighborhood needs to make a withdrawal, deposit, or ask for a loan, it can use a central bank. A central bank is a bank for banks. In the United States the central bank is called the Federal Reserve System.

Pass out **Handout 1: Banks vs Central Banks Venn Diagram**. Read the directions together and then give students time to complete the worksheet on their own.

Tell students the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (also sometimes referred to as the “New York Fed”) is part of the U.S. central bank and has a museum inside. Explain that they will learn more about the Federal Reserve System and the responsibilities of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Tell students that they are going to watch a video to recap what they have discussed and learn more. Explain that after the video, the class will brainstorm questions to ask when they visit the museum.

Play the **What is the Fed? Video**. If students are interested, you can play [the full playlist of videos](#).

Extended Activity: If time permits, tell students the Federal Reserve Bank of New York is in downtown Manhattan in a neighborhood known as the “Financial District.” Tell students they will use a map of New York City from 1921 from the New York Public Library’s collection to learn more about the history of the Financial District and to practice using a map.

Pass out **Handout 2: Find the Fed**. Read the directions together. Depending on the group it may be best to do part 1 of the handout together and ask students to complete part 2 of the handout on their own.

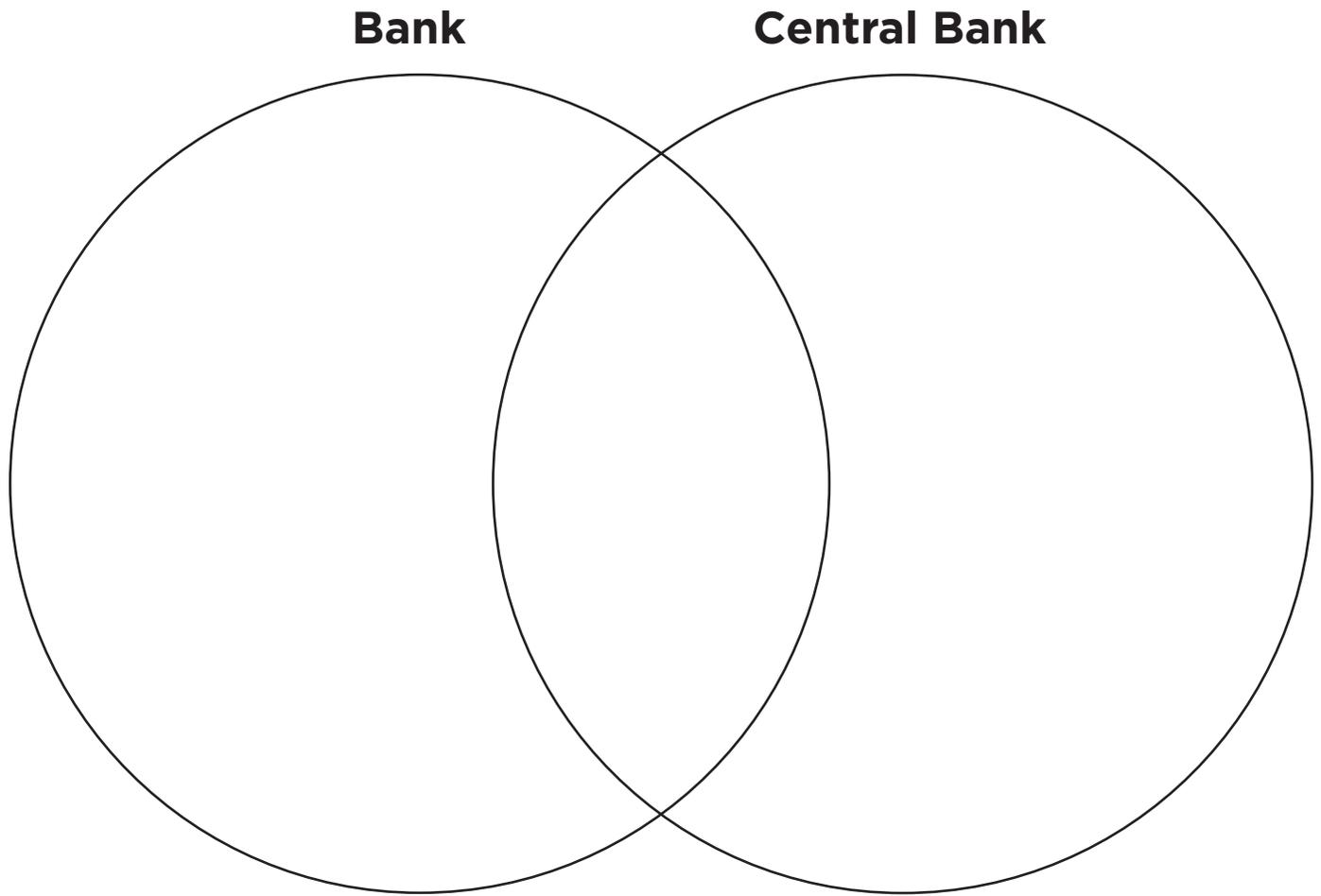
Wrap-up

Review the answers to all handouts used. Remind students of the date for the field trip to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and that a chaperone will bring the list of questions they made to ask the educator(s) in the museum.



 **Handout 1: Banks vs. Central Banks Venn Diagram**

Directions: Place the words from the word bank in the correct part of the Venn diagram. Using the Venn diagram, answer the questions below.



WORD BANK				
	Banks	Loans		Withdrawals
Individual People			Deposits	
	Governments			Businesses

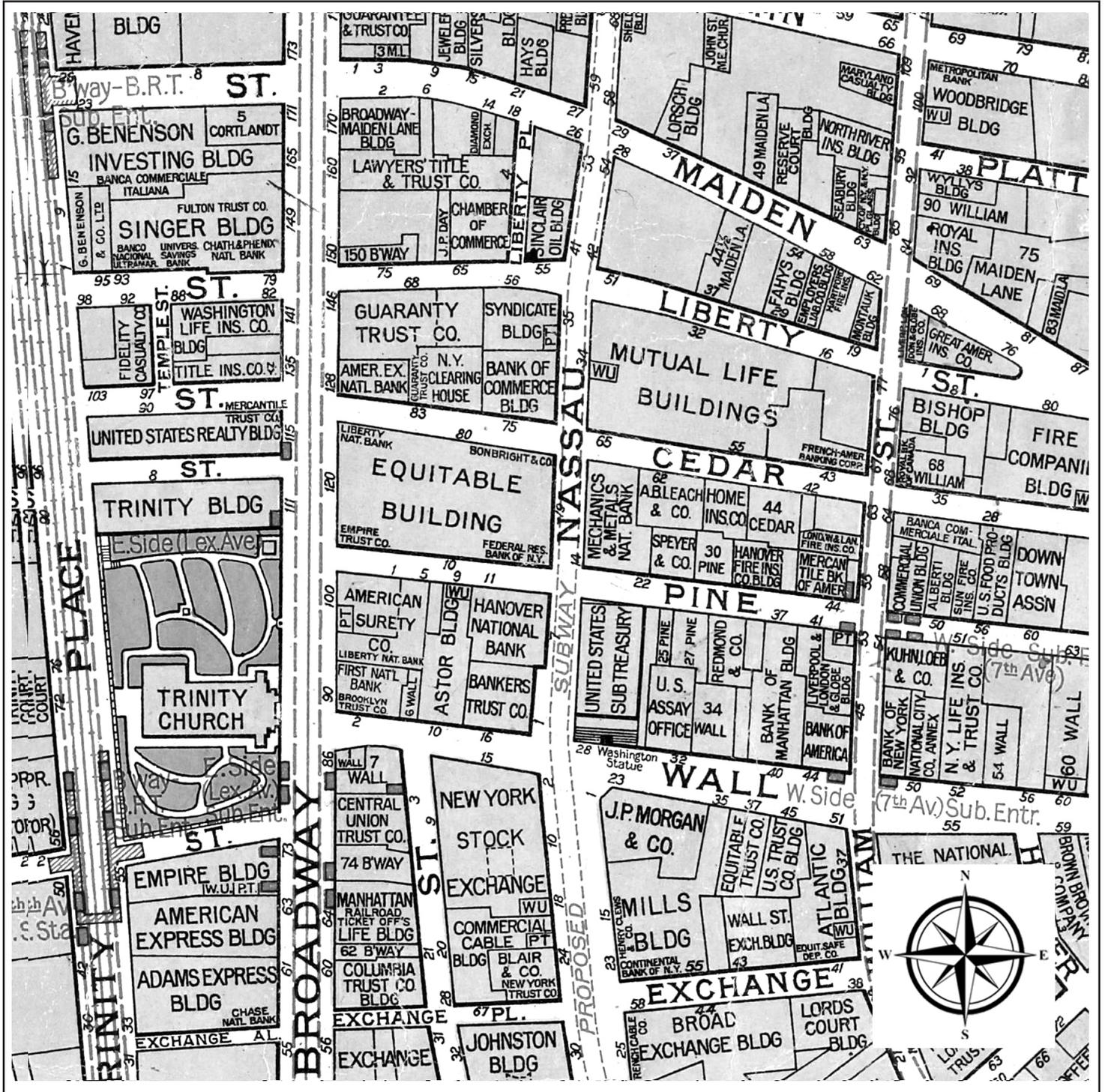
1. **What do a bank and a central bank have in common?**

2. **What are the differences between a bank and a central bank?**



 Handout 2: Find the Fed

Directions: Use the "Financial district map of New York City"² to answer the questions on the next page...



² Full map found here: <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/ad24d970-f79f-0130-87b8-58d385a7b928>



Can you find the New York Fed?

1. This map is from 1921. During that year the Federal Reserve Bank of New York rented office space in the Equitable Building. **Circle this location on the map.**
2. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York opened to the public in its current location in 1924. This means the current location is not marked on the map. The building is bordered by Liberty Street, Nassau Street, Maiden Lane, and William Street. **Circle this location on the map.**
3. As you can see on the map, before the Federal Reserve Bank of New York was built, other buildings occupied the block between William Street and Nassau Street. The New York Fed bought all the properties on the block except for one building on the eastern end. In 1933 the Federal Reserve Bank of New York bought this last building on the block. Then the final piece of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York building was constructed and connected to the existing building!

What was the name of the building on the eastern end of the block that was purchased in 1933?

4. Now, can you locate these other famous NYC landmarks? **Circle their locations on the map.**



New York Stock Exchange

The world's largest stock exchange and a place where stocks, a share in the ownership of a company, are bought and sold.



Trinity Church

This historic church founded in 1697 is the resting place for Alexander Hamilton, a supporter of the First Bank of the United States, the country's first central bank.



United States Sub-Treasury

Now known as Federal Hall, a national memorial, this building once operated as New York's city hall. The statue of George Washington in front of the building marks the spot where he was sworn in as the first president of the United States.



United States Assay Office

Located in the financial district from 1854 to 1982, this office was a place to test the purity of precious metals, like gold.

Post-Visit What did you learn?

Model/Teach

Explain to students that you want to play a game in *Kahoot!* to review some information from their recent visit to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. *If the class has not used Kahoot! before, use some of the attached resources to explain the software to the class.*

Kahoot!

PLAY HERE:

<https://create.kahoot.it/share/post-visit-middle-school/280520ec-d115-449f-b7e5-e71146c918c0>

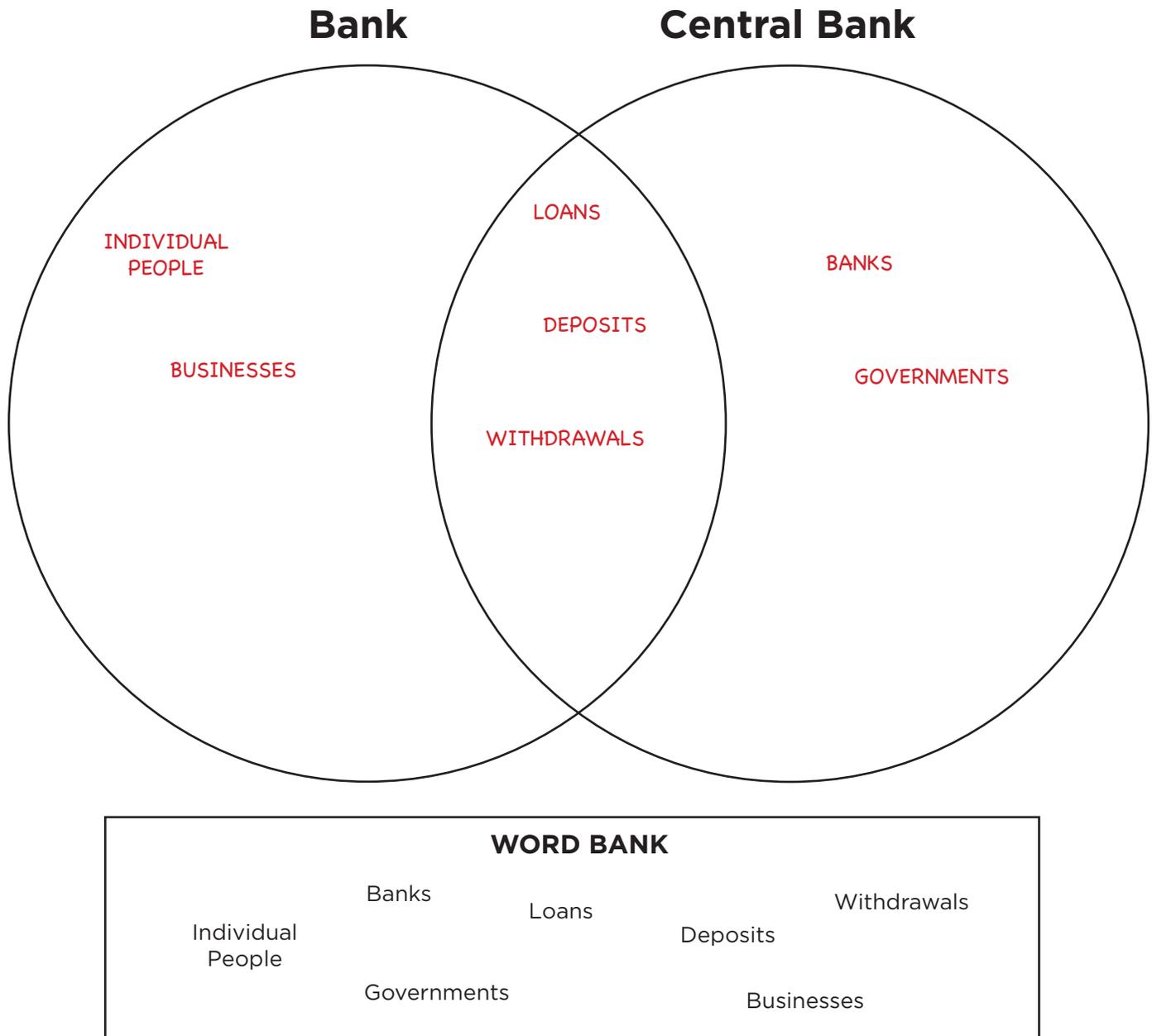
Answer Key:

1. Introduction
2. What is one word that describes your visit to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York? (answers will vary)
3. The Federal Reserve is the Central Bank of the United States.
4. How many districts are in the Federal Reserve System? 12
5. The Federal Reserve is a bank for banks. TRUE
6. The Federal Reserve processes cash and destroys unfit bills. What are some examples of unfit bills?
Moldy, Ripped, Damaged
7. The two goals of Monetary Policy are stable prices and maximum employment.
8. Give a thumbs up if you remember this photo from your visit! 
9. What happens during a bank run? Banks run out of money
10. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York has the largest collection of monetary gold.
11. Individual people can store gold in the Gold Vault at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. FALSE
12. How does the work of the Federal Reserve System affect your everyday life? (answers will vary)



 **Handout 1: Banks vs. Central Banks Venn Diagram [Answer Key]**

Directions: Place the words from the word bank in the correct part of the Venn diagram. Using the Venn diagram, answer the questions below.

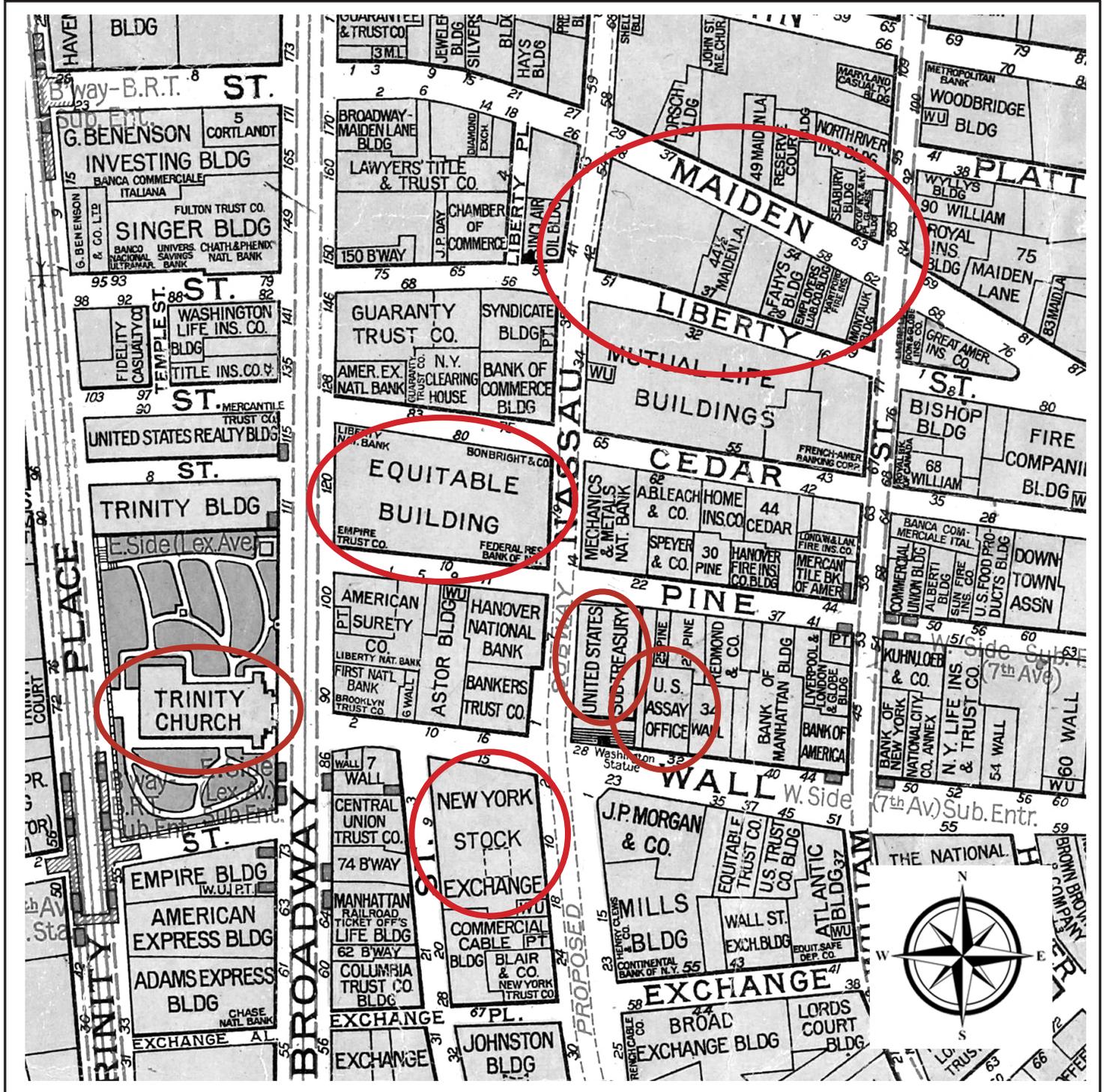


- 1. What do a bank and a central bank have in common?**
LOANS, DEPOSITS, WITHDRAWALS
- 2. What are the differences between a bank and a central bank?**
ACCOUNT HOLDERS (INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES VS BANKS AND GOVERNMENTS)



 Handout 2: Find the Fed [Answer Key]

Directions: Use the "Financial district map of New York City"² to answer the questions on the next page...



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THE MONTAUK BUILDING

4. Now, can you locate these other famous NYC landmarks? **Circle their locations on the map.**
(Answers on previous page)



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