

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE WILDLIFE ON UK BANKNOTES?



The Bank of England recently announced the results of a public consultation about what should feature on their new series of banknotes. Over 44,000 members of the public contributed, with the majority (60%) selecting British wildlife as their preferred theme. Wildlife charities have welcomed the decision, with the RSPCA saying it is a “wonderful way to celebrate the animals that we share our towns, cities and countryside with”. But it is not without its critics. Some MPs have spoken out against the change, particularly the removal of Sir Winston Churchill. Conservative leader, Kemi Badenoch, said that it is “removing our history”. We wanted to know what young people thought about this change and with which side of the debate they felt most aligned. Do they see it as an opportunity to celebrate a new part of British culture, or as an erosion of our past?

Alex
Data Coordinator 

54,304

TOTAL VOTES

10,992

VOTES AGE 5-11

43,312

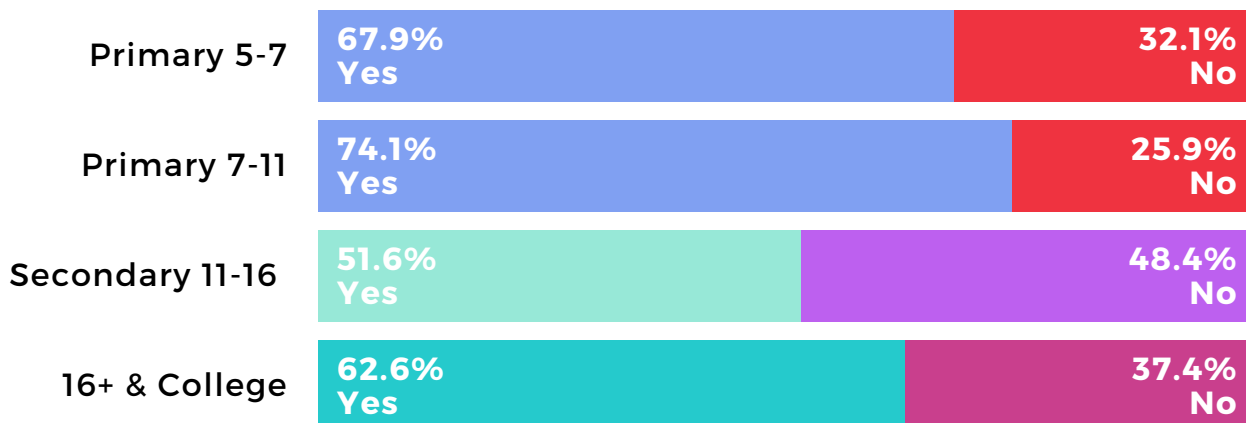
VOTES AGE 11-16+

The VoteTopic questions discussed amongst the different age groups were:

Primary 5-7: “Should there be pictures of animals on banknotes?”

Primary 7-11: “Would you like to see wildlife on UK banknotes?”

Secondary, 16+ & College: “Would you like to see wildlife on UK banknotes?”



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On the whole, Primary pupils were the most in favour of the change, especially 7-11-year olds. A clear theme in the comments was that pictures of wildlife on banknotes could help to raise awareness around environmental issues.

The vote was much more divided amongst older students. Lots of comments shared general support for animals; many of those in favour also thinking it would add to the aesthetic appeal of UK banknotes. Others thought that the topic was a non-issue for young people and argued that cash was no longer a significant part of their lives as they now pay on phones, cards and watches. Some voters shared that they would like to keep historical figures out of respect for their contributions or to represent British history. However, others believed that using animals is a creative way to solve the problem of diversity and representation about who gets to feature on the banknotes.

16+ voters echoed many of the arguments of their younger peers. Some welcomed the wildlife change, some thought that historical figures should be kept out of respect, and others said they weren't interested what goes on the money.

Boys and girls' voting differed on this issue. For those aged 7+, girls were more likely to support wildlife on banknotes than their male peers. The divide at Secondary was significant, as 61% of girls voted 'Yes' compared to just 43% of boys.

Yes because some species are almost wiped out and so it would make people realise how important our wildlife is.

Primary 'Yes' Voter

The people that are on notes now or previously have given something to our country and are special - using animals would take away from that.

Primary 'No' Voter

I feel like it would be nice to see more wildlife on money as it will make the United Kingdom seem greener and it's a step towards a cleaner future.

Secondary 'Yes' Voter

We don't really mind what is on the money - who even notices... Money is money.

Secondary 'No' Voter