

#9246 INSIDE THE U.S. MINT

AMBROSE VIDEO PUBLISHING

2000

Grade Levels: 9-13+

50 minutes

1 Instructional Graphic Enclosed



DESCRIPTION

Describes the process of minting U.S. coins: creating and selecting their designs, finding correct metals, creating new dies, striking and inspecting new coins. Features the gold-refining process for the Canadian gold Maple Leaf and the enormously complex problems faced when replacing the national currencies of Europe with the new Euro-dollar.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Civics

- Standard: Understands how the United States Constitution grants and distributes power and responsibilities to national and state government and how it seeks to prevent the abuse of power
 - Benchmark: Knows which powers are primarily exercised by the state governments (e.g., education, law enforcement, roads), which powers are prohibited to state governments (e.g., coining money, conducting foreign relations, interfering with interstate commerce), and which powers are shared by state and national governments (e.g., power to tax, borrow money, regulate voting)

Subject Area: Economics

- Standard: Understands basic features of market structures and exchanges
 - Benchmark: Knows that the basic money supply is usually measured as the total value of coins, currency, and checking account deposits held by the public

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To observe coin-making inside the U.S. Mint.
2. To present the Royal Canadian Mint.
3. To illustrate the process of European countries switching to the Euro dollar.
4. To provide statistics on minted coins.

VOCABULARY

1. bullion
2. chlorine gas
3. coining press
4. commodities
5. die
6. electrolysis
7. Euro €
8. guild
9. hologram
10. ingot
11. knurled edge
12. mint condition
13. Queen Beatrix
14. reverse/obverse
15. rolling mill
16. titanium



AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Where are the other United States Mints? How many are there? Can you find coins from each?
2. Should we continue to mint pennies when the cost to produce them is greater than their value? Do you pick them up when you find them on the sidewalk?
3. Director Diehl stated that the Susan B. Anthony dollar was unacceptable to the American public because of its size, so near that of a quarter. Do you think there might have been another reason? Would you rather have the dollar coin than the paper bill? Do we need both?
4. Canada has a dollar coin, commonly referred to as a "loonie." What is the reason for that nickname? What then is a Canadian "Doubloon?" Do they also have a paper dollar?
5. How is the Canadian dollar coin minted so as not to be confused with another coin? How is the British pound unique?
6. Why is a variety in coin size important? Should coins be sized in proportion to their value? Do you know of other countries that do that?
7. United States coins all have the phrase "E PLURIBUS UNUM" engraved on them. What does that phrase mean? Where does it come from?
8. Why does the film state coin-collecting is decreasing? Is it a worthwhile hobby? Does anybody in your class collect coins?
9. What does the film suggest is the hardest stage in minting?
10. What was meant by "allegorical design" in earlier minting of United States coins?
11. Would you rather have your portrait hanging in a major art gallery or on a coin as Randy L. Teton's is?
12. Why does rolling the gold make it hot?
13. Why are some European countries switching to the Euro? Why did the film suggest that it would bring unity? What is the European Union? Who belongs? Why is England reluctant to participate fully?
14. How would you feel about using a coin that was common throughout the Western Hemisphere, some of which would have words in Spanish or Portuguese?
15. In the Dutch warehouse pallets of coins could not be stacked very high. The reason was "reclaimed" land. What is meant by that and what is the Dutch history that created it?
16. What is the value of gold today? Where can you find out?

Applications and Activities

1. Design a coin that represents a recent historical figure or event.
2. Read and discuss the statistics of "Money Facts." (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)
3. List as many terms used for money as possible; i.e., cash, bucks, dough, and others.

SUMMARY

Inside the U.S. Mint is about the federal agency that manufactures all of the U.S. coins. The Philadelphia U.S. Mint spans the length of five football fields and rolls out 45 million coins per day. Precision is the key to coin-making whether it is in the presses that strike coins faster than the eye can see or the painstaking process of developing dies for new coins. The U.S. Mint has taken some ambitious initiatives with 50 uniquely designed quarters in honor of each state as well as the new gold one-dollar coin, the Sacajawea. Both Sacajawea designers, Glenna Goodacre and Tom D. Rogers, discuss their designs and the difficulties in coordinating a miniature artistry that distinguishes the coin from all the others in circulation in the world.



The film then visits the Royal Canadian Mint which produces the finest gold coins in the world and are treasured by collectors the world over for their unmatched purity.

The third visit takes us to the Royal Dutch Mint in the Netherlands to illustrate the process that the European countries are experiencing in switching from their national currencies to the Euro-dollar took effect in 2002.

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- The Money People #3382
- Where Does It Come From? #3324



World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **THE UNITED STATES MINT**

http://www.usmint.gov/about_the_mint/

Read all about the history, facilities, coin production, coin specifications, Mint police, and other topics inside the U.S. Mint.

- **U.S. BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING**

<http://www.bep.treas.gov/>

A United States Department of the Treasury site, contains information on "Your New Currency," "Money Facts," "Shredded & Mutilated," "How to Detect a Counterfeit Currency Note," and other currency-related facts.

- **ROYAL CANADIAN MINT**

<http://www.mint.ca/>

Inside this Canadian Mint, click on topics such as "Once Upon a Time," "Royally Cool Money," "About the Mint," and others.

- **H.I.P. POCKET CHANGE**

<http://www.usmint.gov/kids/>

Besides collecting, what other fun can you have with coins? Find out on this site, geared for kids! Travel in the time machine (even pick out period-appropriate clothes before embarking!), play games, and other fun activities to help you learn more about the currency! Sponsored by The U.S. Mint main site.

- **WELCOME TO MONEY CENTRAL STATION**

<http://www.bep.treas.gov/kids/start.html>

How do you make a buck? What all is in "Bankland," "Vaultville," "Moneyfactory," "Treasury Island," and other exotic-sounding places?

INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS

- MONEY FACTS



MONEY FACTS



One-sixth of the world's coinage is minted in Philadelphia.

Twenty million pennies a day are minted in Philadelphia, 10 to 12 billion a year.



Copper and nickel alloy rolls 1216 feet long make 290,000 "blanks" for nickels worth \$14,500 at a cost of \$6000.

The coining press strikes twelve times a second.

Copper-nickel-zinc-manganese alloy in new dollars cost 12 cents.

Height of relief figures in the Sacajawea is 12/1000 of an inch.

Pennies are struck at 35 tons of pressure, nickels at 50 tons, quarters at 65 tons, and the Sacajawea at 85 tons.

The process is master die to working hub to working die. A working die will strike 300,000 times before wearing out.

Highest price ever paid for a \$20 gold coin was \$1,210,000.

The Canadian gold coin is 2.87mm thick. It weighs one ounce and is valued at around \$300.

