



# ALL ABOUT AUSTRALIAN COINS

## Lesson Ideas

These curriculum-linked lesson ideas and activity sheets offer a range of learning experiences for lower primary students to learn about Australian coins.

## Broad learning outcomes

Using this curriculum material will assist students in achieving the following learning outcomes:

- Students will explore the features of Australian coins, including images, size, shape and colour.
- Students will learn that coin value is not related to size.
- Students will order Australian coins from lowest to highest value.

## English

- Students to put the following coin-related words in alphabetical order: cent, dollar, fifty, one, two, ten, twenty, mint, five.
- Students to select a coin and see how many adjectives they can think of to describe it.
- Students to complete the **'Minty wordsearch'** activity sheet.
- Students to write a simple story about a day in the life of a coin.

## History

- Students to ask an adult if they have any old Australian currency. This could include 1c or 2c coins, \$1 and \$2 notes, or older imperial currency.
- Students to look at some commemorative coins and discuss the events they celebrate. What happened? Who was involved? Why was it a special event?
- Students to research what items (other than coins and notes) have historically been used as currency. Do students think that this would work nowadays? Why or why not?



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## Maths

- Students to spend some time examining the pictures on each Australian coin, then complete '**Australian coins**' activity sheet.
- Students to practise putting Australian coins in order from lowest value to highest value, then complete the '**Lowest to highest**' activity sheet.
- Students to complete the '**Which is worth more?**' activity sheet to help them learn that coin value is not related to size.
- Students to play a game of heads and tails. Explore the probability of the coin landing with the heads or tails side facing upwards.

## Science/Technology

- Students to research which materials are used now, or have been used in the past, to make coins. What properties do the materials have that make them suitable for coin production? Can students think of materials that would not be suitable for making coins? Why would they not be suitable?
- Select one of the animals featured on an Australian coin and complete the '**Currency creatures**' activity sheet.

## Geography

- Students to consider traditional systems of exchange (such as trading or bartering), focusing specifically on any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities with connections to the local area. Set up an in-class currency system for use by all students.

## The Arts

- Students to make a hanging coin mobile using the coins on the '**Coin mobile**' activity sheet.
- Students to colour the characters on the '**Coin Scene Investigators**' activity sheet.
- Students to make a class currency collage, using \$ and c symbols cut out of catalogues.



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## Health and Physical Education

- Students to create a lowest to highest relay race. In teams of six, students line up and one at a time run to collect a coin from a bag. When all six students have a coin they arrange themselves in order from lowest to highest value. The first team to finish wins.

## LOTE/Languages

- Students to investigate the names of currencies used in other countries.
- Students to look at coins from other countries. Do they feature culturally significant images?