



# CALCULATING WITH AUSTRALIAN NOTES AND COINS

## Extension lesson ideas

Here are some lesson ideas to complement the 'Calculating with Australian notes and coins' unit of work.

- Look at coins from other countries. Describe the differences in appearance and value. Use the internet to investigate the value of the coins compared to Australia's coins. Do we have the same denominations as other countries?
- Complete the '**What I know about Australia's coins and banknotes**' activity sheet. This can be completed after reading the information in the 'Facts for students' section.
- Introduce students to the idea of currency conversion. Complete some simple conversions (e.g. to US dollars or British pounds) using online currency convertors. Students can record their information in the table on the '**World currencies**' activity sheet.
- Students to create a flow chart to show how coins or banknotes are manufactured and circulated in Australia.
- Select a person or animal displayed on an Australian coin or banknote and research to discover more about it/him/her.
- Create a class currency with images and monetary values. What would students choose to feature on their currency and why?
- In groups, students to create a catalogue of their favourite items. They should include prices, sales and/or discount offers.
- Create your own classroom 'shop' or 'market' with items such as toys or plastic food. Students use plastic money (or their own class currency) to 'buy' items and practise giving change.
- From memory, students to draw a coin/note of their choice. Once finished, compare the drawing to the real thing. Does it look the same? Which features did students miss in the drawing?
- Use the '**It's common 'cents**'' activity sheet to practise converting dollars to cents and cents to dollars.
- If a new Australian coin or banknote was to be created who or what would students choose to be featured and why? Students to present their ideas to the class.



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- Students to create their own game using coins, notes and dice. They must create their own set of written rules. Classmates to play the game. If students want to create a board game, you can find templates in the 'Templates and masters' section of the For Teachers for students website.
- Research which materials are used to make our coins and banknotes. What properties do these materials have that make them suitable?
- Students to collect some receipts from home then view and record the features they have (such as the date, the business name and ABN, time of the transaction, costs of individual items, sub totals etc.). You can also use the example receipt on the **'What's on my receipt?'** activity sheet.
- Why are commemorative coins manufactured? Bring in a commemorative coin that you may have collected to show the class and discuss its features. You can also view commemorative coins on the Royal Australian Mint website ([www.ramint.gov.au](http://www.ramint.gov.au))
- Create a timeline of key events in the development of Australian currency. This may include early currency, the development of Australia's first coins and banknotes and the changeover to decimal currency. You can find extensive information about Australia's coins at [www.ramint.gov.au](http://www.ramint.gov.au), and Australia's banknotes at [banknotes.rba.gov.au](http://banknotes.rba.gov.au).
- Invite someone who remembers the coin changeover (in 1966) to come and speak to the class about this major change in Australia. You can also view television commercials from that time on the National Film and Sound Archive's YouTube channel.
- Research some of the anti-counterfeit technologies used to keep our currency safe. Ask students to think about what security measures they would include if they were responsible for creating currency.