



photo courtesy MoneyBlogNewz

Presidents in Your Pockets

Mini Fact:

Many coin designs feature the artists' initials on the obverse. Use a magnifying glass to find them!

Somewhere in your house, there's probably a bowl full of presidents lying around. Or maybe you're carrying them in your pockets.

Of course, they aren't *actual* presidents. They're coins with presidents' faces on them.

Presidents Day is Monday, Feb. 21. This holiday began as a tribute to President George Washington and was scheduled near his birthday, Feb. 22. In fact, the official name of the federal holiday is still Washington's Birthday. The Mini Page celebrates with an issue about presidents on our coins.

The first coins

In 1792, Congress passed the Coinage Act, which called for a national **mint**, or factory where money is made, and set money for the United States based on 100 and its fractions: a half, one-quarter, one-eighth, etc. Those first coins included a half-cent and a half-dime, which we no longer use.

Congress also said U.S. coins should have an "impression emblematic of liberty." Lady Liberty appeared on circulating coins for more than 150 years.

Lincoln penny

In 1909, President Abraham Lincoln replaced Lady Liberty on the 1-cent coin. President Theodore Roosevelt decided that the 16th president should be honored with his face on the coin to celebrate Lincoln's 100th birthday.



Artist Victor David Brenner, who was born in Lithuania but moved to the United States in 1890, had created a plaque of President Lincoln several years earlier, which Roosevelt saw in New York City. Brenner adapted the metalwork for the penny coin.

Washington quarter

It took 23 years for another president to appear on a coin. Our first president, George Washington, was honored with his face on the 25-cent coin to celebrate his 200th birthday.



John F. Flanagan, a sculptor who was born in Newark, New Jersey, was chosen to create the image of Washington for the coin. He also designed the **reverse** side of the coin, which features a bald eagle with its wings spread.

Jefferson nickel

Although the nickel (or half-dime) was used in circulation in the early 1800s, it wasn't until 1938 that President Thomas Jefferson's **profile**, or view from the side, appeared on the coin. Felix Schlag, a German who moved to the U.S. in 1929, won a contest for designing the new coin.



In 2005, American painter Joe Fitzgerald designed a new image of Jefferson for the **obverse**, or front, of the coin. Rather than a profile, Jefferson is shown facing forward.

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of coins are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ACT, COIN, DESIGN,
DIME, ENGRAVER,
HALF-DOLLAR, HONOR,
IMAGE, LIBERTY,
MINT, MONEY, NICKEL,
OBVERSE, PENNY,
PRESIDENT, PROFILE,
QUARTER, REVERSE,
SCULPTOR.

C	W	E	M	I	D	V	Y	N	N	E	P	A	E	T
O	O	H	A	L	F	D	O	L	L	A	R	C	S	N
E	N	I	E	N	G	R	A	V	E	R	C	T	R	I
B	H	O	N	O	R	T	V	E	I	M	A	G	E	M
U	R	E	T	R	A	U	Q	U	Z	X	Q	N	V	V
N	T	N	E	D	I	S	E	R	P	L	Z	X	E	X
M	O	N	E	Y	V	M	N	G	I	S	E	D	R	Z
E	L	I	F	O	R	P	R	O	T	P	L	U	C	S
H	S	I	Y	L	I	B	E	R	T	Y	U	H	L	X
E	S	R	E	V	B	O	L	E	K	C	I	N	M	I

Cook's Corner

Zapped Apples

You'll need:

- 2 large apples
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 3 teaspoons brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons orange juice

What to do:

1. Core apples carefully and make a slit around the middle of each apple to prevent skin from bursting.
2. Melt butter in microwave for 10 to 15 seconds. Stir in brown sugar, orange juice, cinnamon and raisins. Fill each cored apple with mixture.
3. Place apples in small baking dish with 1/4 cup water in bottom. Sprinkle pecans on top if desired. Cover baking dish with plastic. Cook on high in microwave for 4 minutes. Allow to cool for 15 minutes before serving. Makes 2 servings.

- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3 tablespoons raisins
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup pecans, if desired



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. without making a sound (8) _____
2. mix together (7) _____
3. "nightlight" in the sky (4) _____
4. school lunchroom (9) _____
5. orange root vegetable (6) _____
6. trimming the lawn (6) _____
7. ship that goes underwater (9) _____

CAR	ETE	ING	ON
NTLY	BINE	INE	ROT
SUB	MOW	CAF	MAR
MO	SILE	RIA	COM



Answers: silently, combine, moon, cafeteria, carrot, mowing, mowing, submarine.

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Roosevelt dime

Shortly after President Franklin D. Roosevelt died in 1945, a Virginia congressman proposed that the 10-cent coin's design be changed to honor the 32nd president. Chief Engraver John R. Sinnock of the U.S. Mint was chosen to design the coin. Some historians believe that Sinnock's design was influenced by a plaque made by Selma Burke, an African American artist, in 1944.



Kennedy half-dollar

The assassination of President John F. Kennedy in November 1963 shocked the nation. Soon after he died, Congress authorized a new 50-cent coin with his likeness.

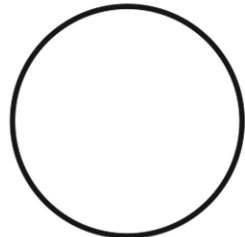


Gilroy Roberts, a chief engraver for the U.S. Mint, designed the obverse, which replaced an image of Benjamin Franklin. The coins were available to the public by March 1964.

Design a coin!

Could you design a coin? You might try to design one honoring our current president, Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, or someone else you admire.

Share your ideas with friends or classmates.



Resources



On the Web:

- [usmint.gov/learn/kids](https://www.usmint.gov/learn/kids)

At the library:

- "Coin Collecting for Beginners" by Eldridge Kalford

Mini Jokes



Corona: How does a group of dolphins make a decision?
Cameron: They flipper a coin!

Eco Note



Beavers are migrating farther north into the Arctic due to the warming climate, producing what a new U.S. government report says is a "significant impact" on the landscape. NOAA's Arctic Report Card 2021 says western Alaska has seen a doubling of its beaver population to more than 12,000 during the past 20 years. Their dams are increasing surface water and adding to the rate of permafrost melt, which in turn releases the greenhouse gases methane and carbon dioxide.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for items about new coins being introduced.

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