

Marshall County Museum Counting on the Presidents



Read:

Abraham Lincoln appears on the penny, Thomas Jefferson is on the nickel, Franklin D. Roosevelt is featured on the dime, George Washington adorns the quarter and John F. Kennedy is honored on the half-dollar. Ever wonder how certain presidents ended up being featured on American coins? Why presidents? Why not places or things? Why not animals or stars and planets?

Do:

In honor of Presidents Day, use the following pages to create a *Book of Coins* and learn some fascinating facts about the presidents who ended up with their faces on the front of our money.

1. Use the booklet on the next pages and follow the instructions to complete a *Book of Coins*.
2. Read about coins on each page of the booklet.
3. Place the coin under the paper in each box and use the side of the tip of a colored pencil or crayon to lightly rub over the surface of the coin until the coin design appears on the paper. Don't press too hard!
4. Turn the coin over and do a rubbing of the back of the coin the same way.
5. Complete the activities on pages 8 & 9.
6. Have an adult help you cut the pages with the booklet on them in half, put them in number order and staple your book together down the left-hand side.

Materials:

- Pencil, crayons or colored pencils
- Penny, nickel, dime, quarter and half-dollar
- Book of Coins pages
- Other coins
- Scissors
- Stapler

Share:

Share your booklet with your family and friends

Take a picture of yourself with your book, especially with page 9 - the one with your own creations!

Post your picture on social media with the hashtag #MCMuseumFromHome.



A Book of Coins



From the very earliest times, coins have been used as money. Coins could be made easily and they were made from many kinds of metal.

Some coins were not round like our modern coins.



Some had holes in them.



Some were made of two kinds of metal.



Sometimes, coins were even cut into pieces to pay for something that didn't cost a whole coin.



But over time, one thing became clear. Kings and rulers of all kinds liked to have their pictures on coins. This was to remind the people who was in charge. Many times, the first thing a new king would do was to mint a new coin (to 'mint' means to make) for the people to use while shopping.

Soon after the Revolutionary War was won, the brand-new United States had to make some decisions about coins and who would be featured on them. The new American citizens didn't like the idea of having a person pictured on their coins - they wanted something that reflected their new government "of the people, by the people and for the people."

Instead they wanted images that made them think of their new freedom, like these:



Lady Liberty



Eagle

It wasn't until much later that the United States started to put former presidents' pictures on our coins. And one major difference is that the coins could not bear the likeness of a **LIVING** president, so that no sitting president could order a coin to be made for himself. Turn the page to learn about the first president to have a coin.

Page 2

The Penny - Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 1865)

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President. He was president during the Civil War and helped the United States stay together as one country. He did many great things during his time in office, but he is remembered for ending the Civil War.

In 1909 Abraham Lincoln became the first American president to have his face on a coin when President Theodore Roosevelt and the United States Treasury redesigned the penny to celebrate Lincoln's 100th birthday.

Front of coin

Back of coin

Page 3

The Nickel - Thomas Jefferson (1743 - 1826)

Thomas Jefferson was the third President. He was the main writer of the Declaration of Independence and also served as the nation's first secretary of state. He was a curious man with a big interest in nature. During his time in office, the Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the United States.

In 1938 the Treasury Department held a competition for designs to put Thomas Jefferson's face on the nickel coin and his historic home, Monticello on the other side. After 390 entries were sent in, sculptor Felix Schlag won the \$1,000 prize.

Front of coin

Back of coin

Page 4

The Dime - Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882 - 1945)

Franklin Roosevelt was president during most of the Great Depression through most of World War II. He was the 32nd president and was elected to office four times, more than any other president before him. (Now presidents can only serve two terms.) He died while he was still president.

Shortly after WWII ended in 1945, the Treasury Department decided to honor the former president by putting his picture on the dime. A charity called the March of Dimes helped to pay for research to end a disease called polio, which Roosevelt had as a young man, so that made it a very special honor.

Front of coin

Back of coin

Page 5

The Quarter - George Washington (1732 - 1799)

George Washington was the first President. He was called the "Father of Our Country." He not only served as the first president, but he also commanded the Continental Army during the American Revolution.

In 1932, 23 years after the Lincoln penny was minted, the Treasury Department issued the George Washington quarter in honor of his 200th birthday.

Front of coin

Back of coin

Page 6

The Half Dollar - John F. Kennedy (1917 - 1963)

John F. Kennedy served as the 35th president of the United States. At 43 years old, he was the youngest person ever to be elected president. Although he was only in office for three years before he died, he helped create a new space program and pushed Congress for a Civil Rights Act, which was passed after he died.

A decision was quickly made to honor President Kennedy by placing his image on the United States half-dollar. The new president, Lyndon Johnson, quickly issued an Executive Order for the Treasury to make the coin.

Front of coin

Back of coin

Page 7

In the years since the penny, nickel, dime, quarter and half-dollar were minted, there have been many changes to our money. Ask an adult to show you some different kinds of coins. Some examples would be State Quarters or a Buffalo Nickel. Use the space below to make rubbings of some of your favorites.

If you could design a coin, what would you put on it? Would you put a person on it? Who? And why that person? Would you put some kind of animal on it? Which animal? And why that one? Use the space below to design your own coin or coins. How much would your coin(s) be worth? Use words to explain why you chose the image or images you did.