

Presidential \$1 Coin Program

Overviews

Mint Education Initiative

The United States Mint H.I.P. Pocket Change™ Web site (www.usmint.gov/kids) is a cross-curricular educational resource for parents and teachers and an entertaining kids' site.

Born out of a 1997 Presidential mandate to “enrich the Internet as a learning tool,” H.I.P. Pocket Change uses games, animation, and interactive features to showcase the connection between this country’s coins and its people. It also serves as an online resource for educators, using coins as a vehicle to teach lessons aligned with National Standards in Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science.

Other Mint Education Initiative projects include lesson plans to support the 50 State Quarters® Program and the Westward Journey Nickel Series.™ These lesson plans have seen more than 3 million downloads and garnered appreciative comments from teachers across the land. For example, a teacher from a focus group in Bethesda, Maryland, said: “The lesson plans are easy to implement into my curriculum. The site is very attractive for kids. [H.I.P. Pocket Change] is the best-kept secret on the Web!”

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The United States is issuing circulating coins that feature the portraits of former US presidents, indicating the years they served and the number of each presidency. The series begins in 2007 with coins released about three months apart that feature our first four presidents: Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and Madison.

Four more Presidential \$1 coins will appear each year, covering all the deceased presidents in the order in which they served. Each will feature a dramatic image of the Statue of Liberty on the back as well as lettering around the coins' edge (or “third side”). One-third of each year’s dollar coin mintage will be the current Golden Dollar featuring Sacagawea.

Where do the coins' designers find images of Presidents that lived 200 years ago? For the 2007 coins, there are three primary sources: the presidential medals, the presidential intaglio prints at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and the official portraits painted during the presidents' lifetimes.

Lesson Plans

To further encourage the use of the \$1 coin and to take advantage of the educational opportunity of the program, the United States Mint has created lesson plans that correlate with this program. This series of plans, designed and evaluated by certified teachers or educational consultants, is similar to the popular lesson plans based on the 50 State Quarters Program and the Westward Journey Nickel Series.

Each one of the Presidential \$1 Coin lesson plans is written to apply to more than one of the coins. Rather than being based on specific Presidents, the plans are written to apply to several administrations, ensuring that the plans can be easily incorporated into many curricula.

The plans use the coin designs as a way to introduce children to the history of our country and other aspects of the federal government, such as its tripartite structure, federal and state powers, and the electoral system. The lessons are based on national standards and refer to these standards. As an additional resource for educators, some Web sites are suggested for more information on each President.

The plans' primary subject area will be Social Studies and may include Early American History, Modern American History, Civics, Economics, World History, and Government. The lesson plans are appropriate for grade level blocks of K and 1, 2 and 3, 4 through 6, 7 and 8, 9 and 10, and 11 and 12.