

H.I.P. Pocket Change™ Announces New Nickel Lesson Plans for Grade K-12

The United States Mint H.I.P. Pocket Change™ Web site offers its first set of free downloadable lesson plans built around the new Westward Journey Nickel Series™.

To compliment the new nickels, the United States Mint will offer K-6 educators a set of free lesson plans based on each new design as it is released. Resource recommendations for K through 12 teachers will be available as well to support their teaching of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition—a great opportunity to connect history with the coins in the very pockets of their students! At the end of the year more comprehensive secondary education lesson plans will be released covering both 2004 nickels. All lesson plans and educational resources are available for free from the United States Mint H.I.P. Pocket Change Web site at **www.usmint.gov/kids**.

Earlier this year, the United States Mint released its 2004 set of quarter-based lesson plans featuring the Michigan, Florida, Texas, Iowa, and Wisconsin quarter designs from the popular 50 State Quarters® Program. Their drawing upon the new quarter reverse designs helps inspire students to learn about the culture, geography, and unique heritage of our states.

Because of the success of these plans, the original set for grades K through 6 have been expanded with additional plans for grades 7 through 12, where students gain exposure to an advanced set of concepts in history.

“Coins serve as a terrific way to help students learn about our states and our Nation,” said United States Mint Director Henrietta Holsman Fore. “These well-written lesson plans help make learning fun in the classroom, while students gain important academic skills.”

The various lesson plans in both the quarter series and the nickel series—created and reviewed by teachers to meet curricular goals—focus on mathematics, geography, history, language, art, science, financial literacy, and more. The plans blend clear instructions with student-friendly reproducible worksheets, background information, and answer keys to help make instruction easier for educators.

For more information, other educational resources, games, quarter-based lesson plans from previous years, and the new nickel-based plans, be sure to visit **www.usmint.gov/kids**.