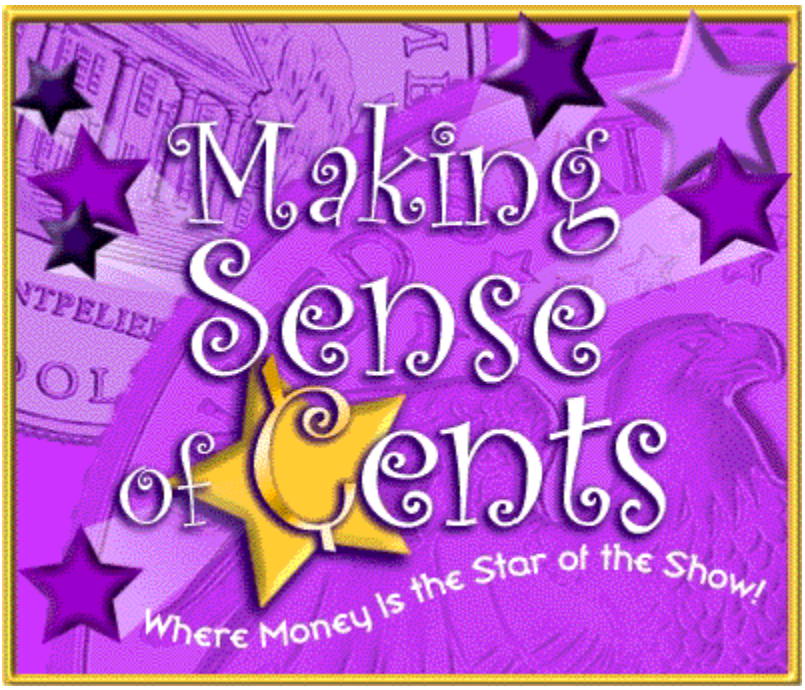
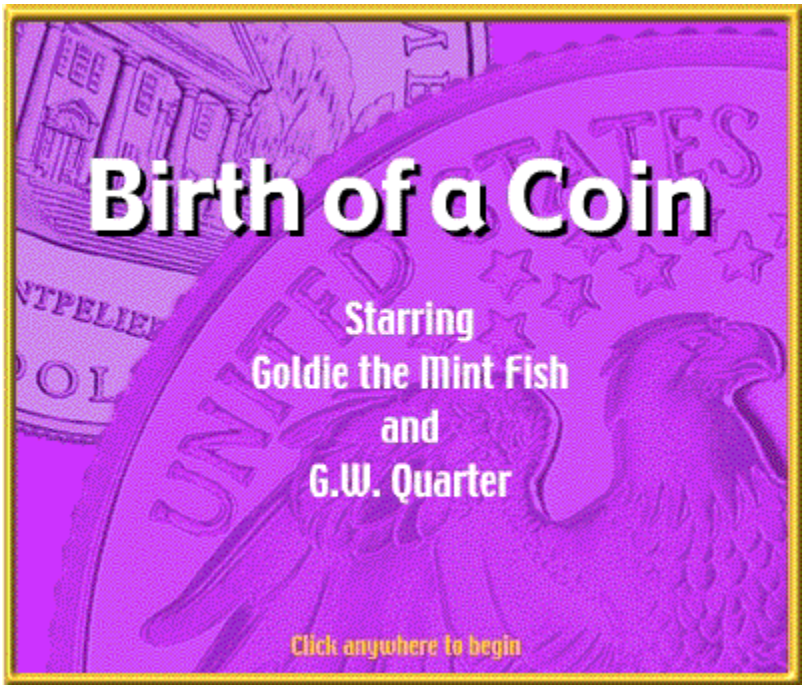
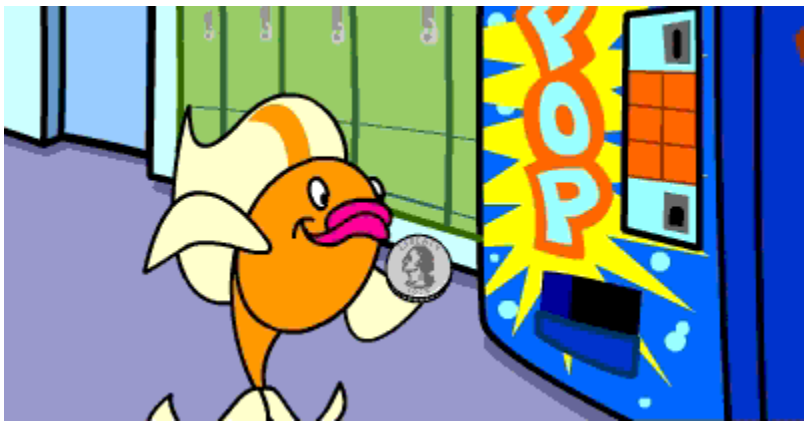
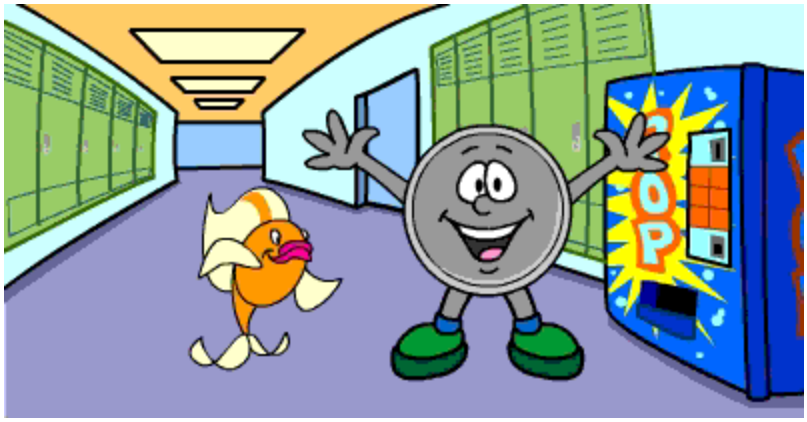

Making
Sense
of Cents
Where Money Is the Star of the Show!


Birth of a Coin
Starring
Goldie the Mint Fish
and
G.W. Quarter
Click anywhere to begin



Ever wonder where a coin comes from?
Well then, here's a story you'll really flip for.



Hi, kids! G.W. Quarter here to change the way
you look at change. It's a story I call
"The Birth of a Coin." Come on, follow me.

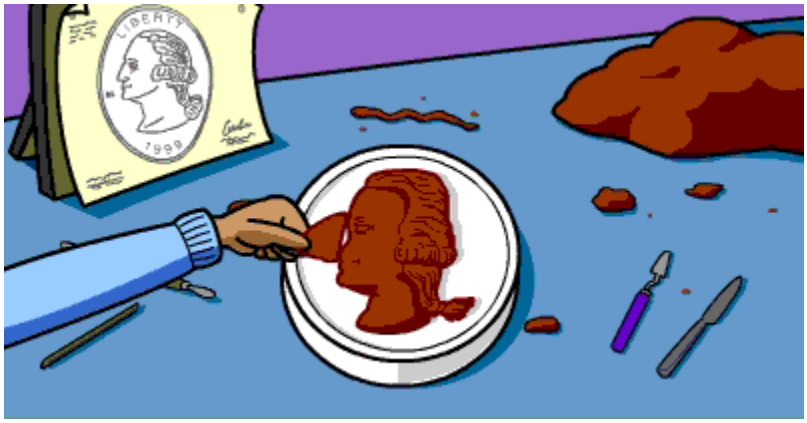
It all starts right here in Washington, D.C. Before a
coin ever becomes a coin, it has to be voted on
by Congress. All in favor say, "Cha-ching!"

If Congress thinks it's a good idea, it sends a document to the U.S. Mint, authorizing the new coin.

Did you know there are four mints in the United States? Let me show you where they are.

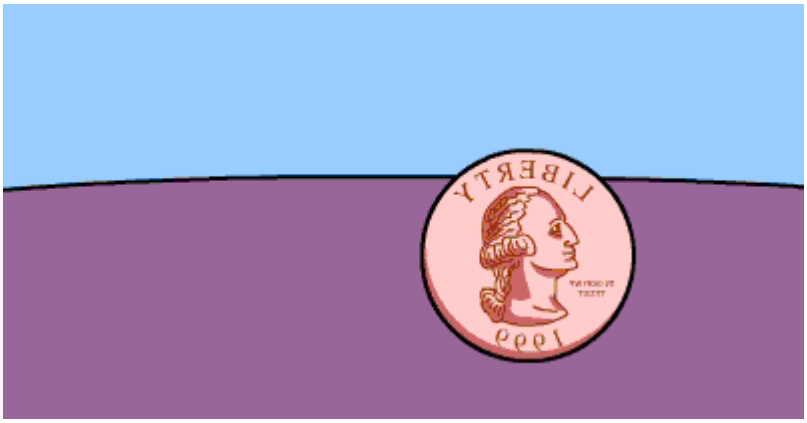
This is an artist at the Mint. He draws pictures of what the coin will look like. If you had to make a coin, what would you put on it? The President? A dog? Maybe the President's dog?

See how big we draw the coin. That's so we can sketch all the tiny details. Just think if the Mint really made coins this big. We'd all have to get bigger pockets.

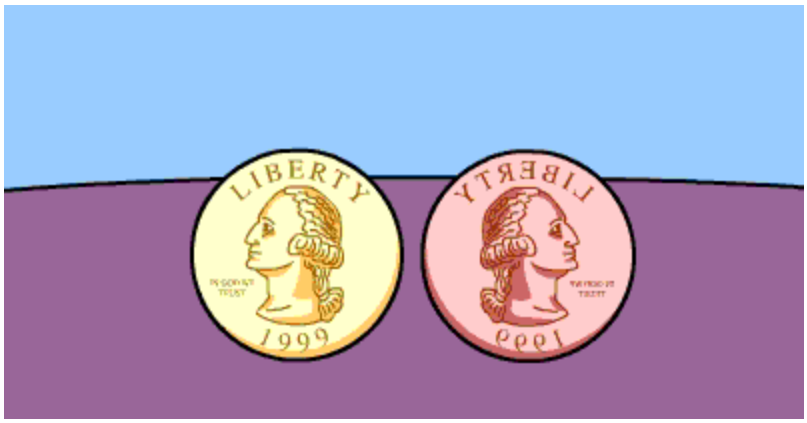


Once we decide on the look of the coin, the sculptors at the Mint make a clay model from the drawing. Of course, we don't always get it right the first time.

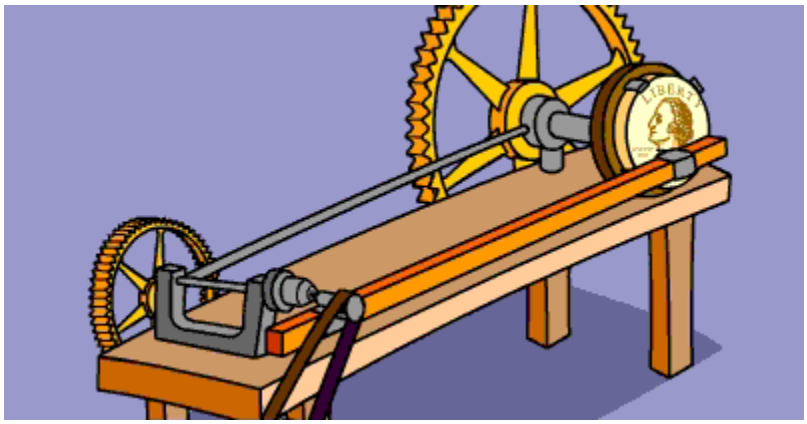
When the clay model is finished, we make a plaster cast of it.



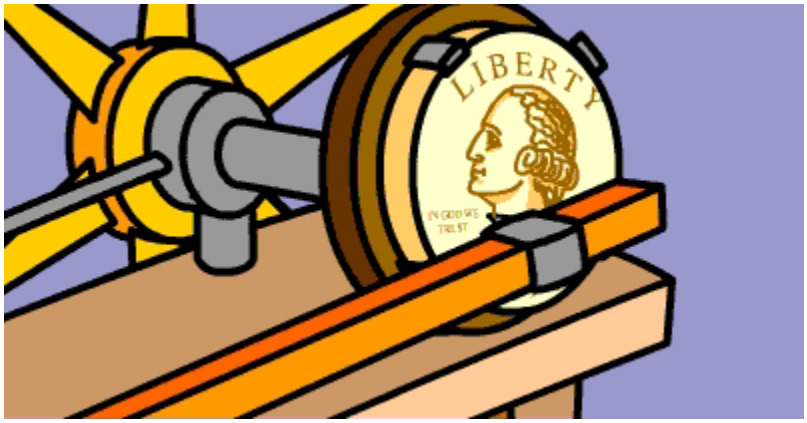
Then from the plaster cast, we make another cast out of rubber.



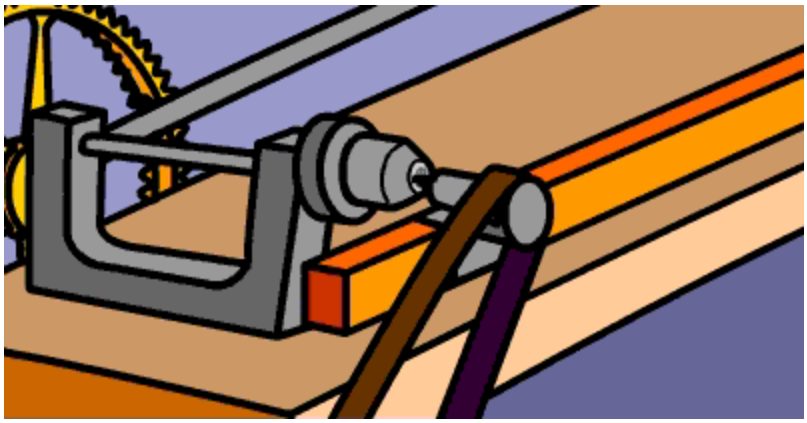
And finally, from the rubber cast, we make a final cast
out of hard epoxy. The result looks like a big plastic coin.



The Mint puts this big epoxy coin in a transfer engraving machine.
The Mint has been using machines like this for over a hundred years.

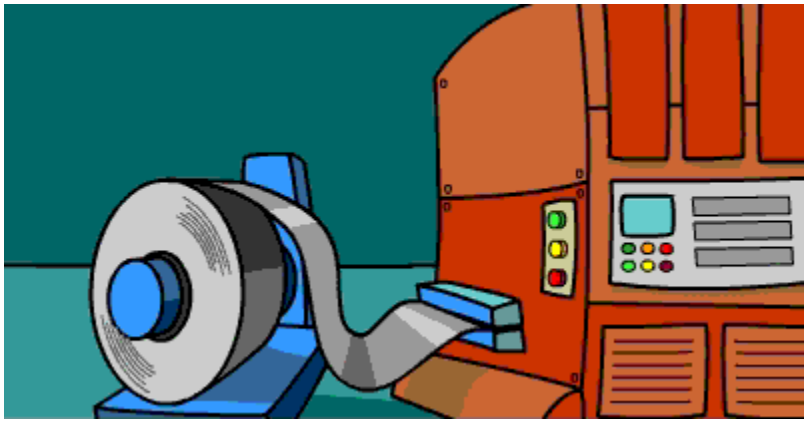


For three long days, the transfer engraving machine
slowly carves a tiny metal copy of the big epoxy coin.



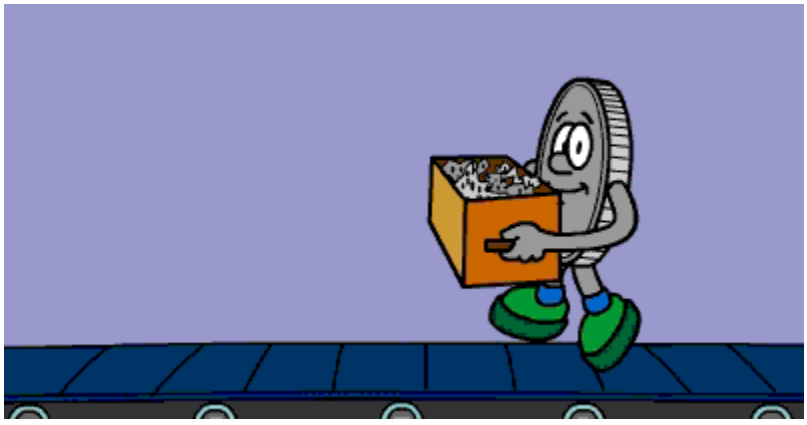
This metal copy is called a die.

After making many of these dies, we check them for flaws.
Only the best dies are used to make coins.

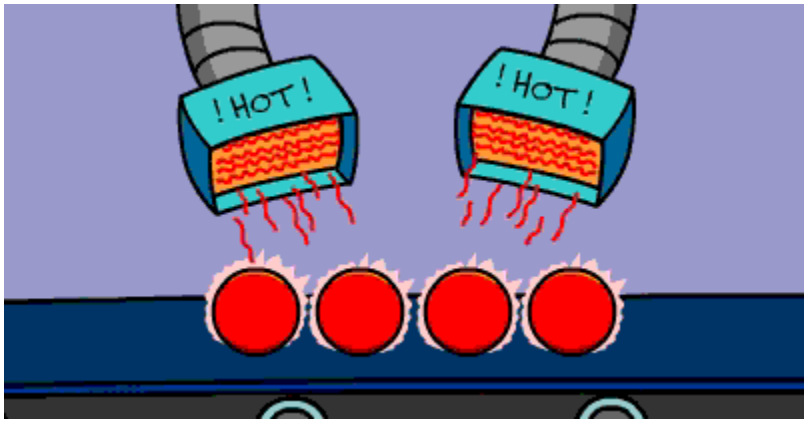


While the dies are being made, the Mint feeds
big rolls of metal into the side of this machine.

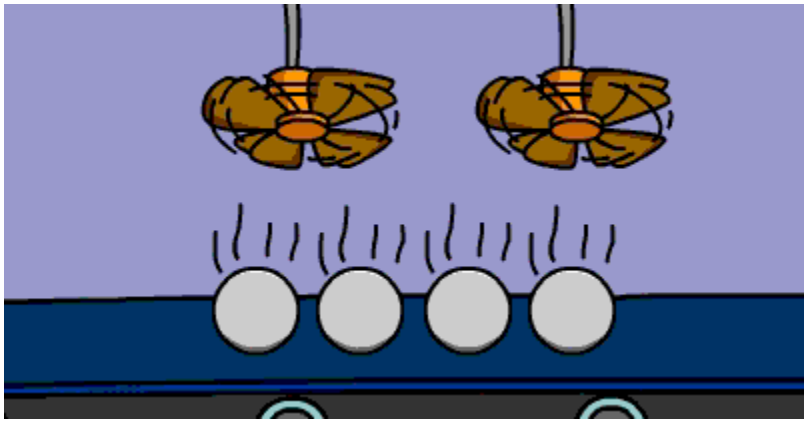
Out the other side, blank metal disks come pouring out.
The machine cuts up the metal like a cookie cutter.
Too bad we don't make chocolate chip coins.



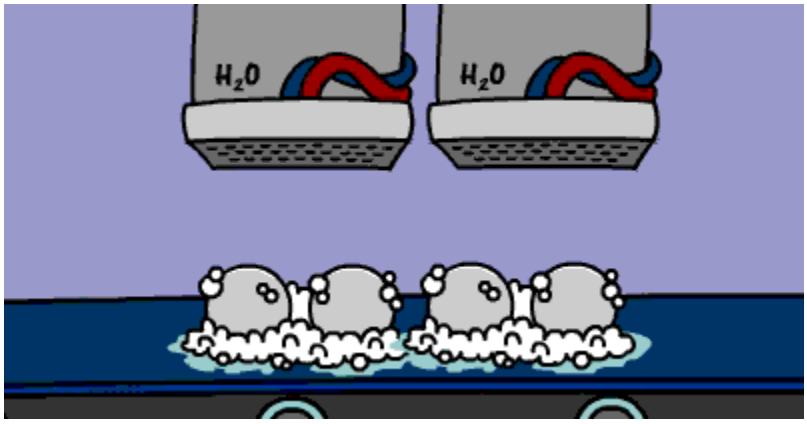
One roll of metal is as long as five football fields and
can make up to 325,000 blanks. All the leftover metal
is recycled and melted down to make new rolls of metal.



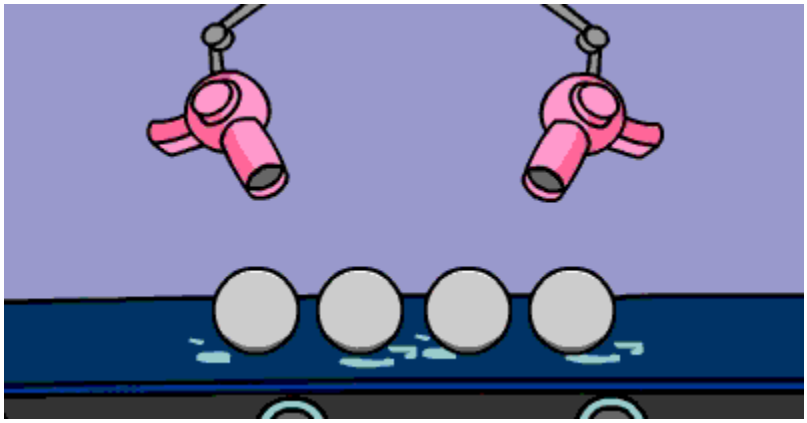
Now it's time to heat up the blanks to make them soft.



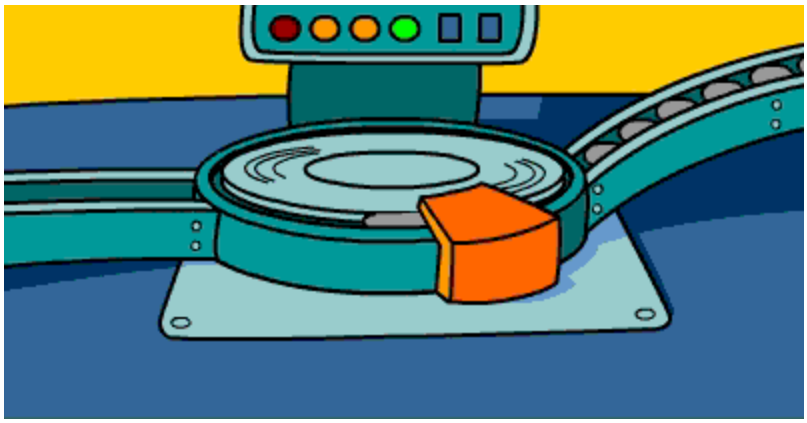
Then they're cooled.



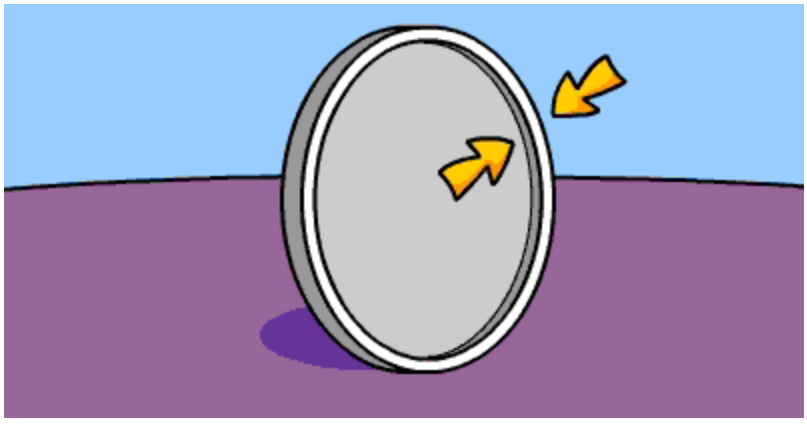
Then they're given a bath.



And finally they're dried off. Look how clean and shiny they are.
Or what we like to call "minty fresh."



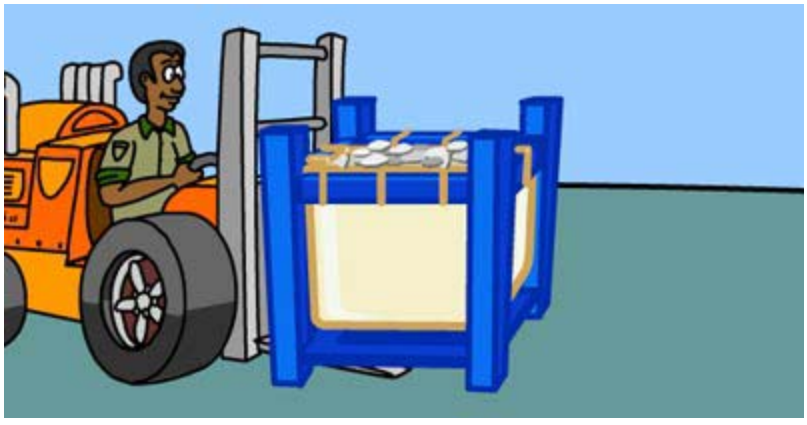
The good blanks are sent to a machine called an upsetting mill.



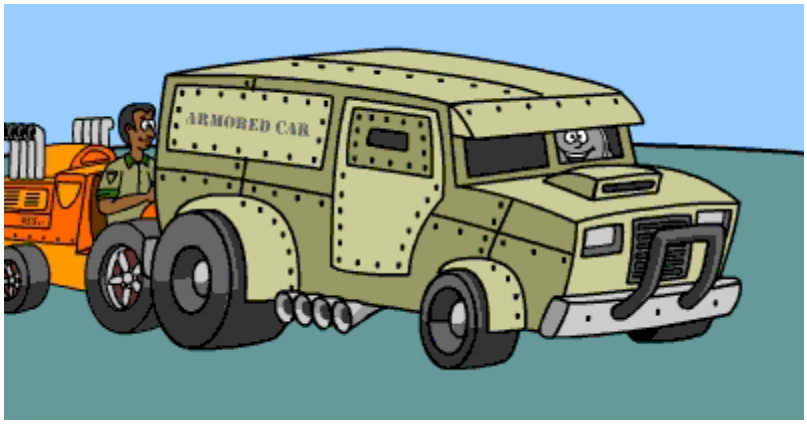
The upsetting mill raises a rim on both sides of the blank
to prepare it for the coin press.

Remember the dies we made earlier? They're now inside the coin press. This machine presses the die into the blank metal disk and makes a coin.

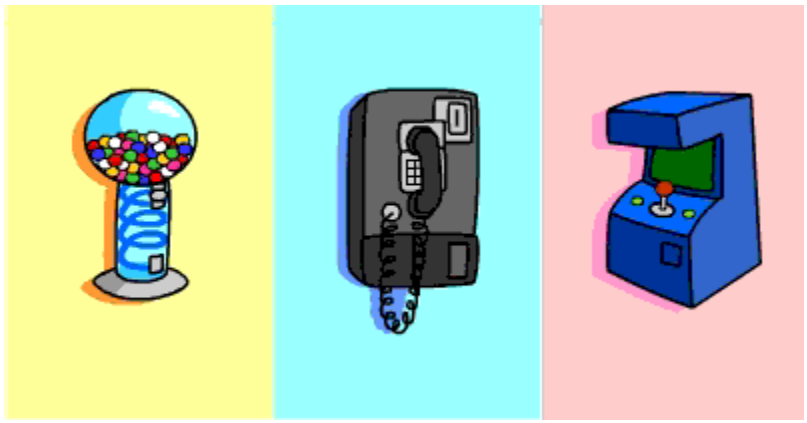
The new coins are then checked for quality, counted, and put into Jumbo bags.



The Jumbo bag is then moved by forklift.

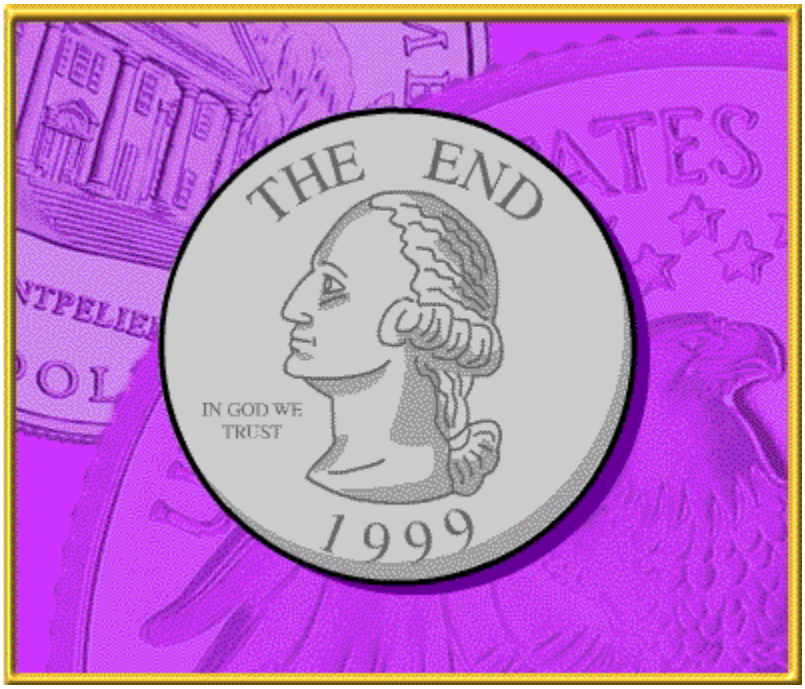


Then they're loaded into armored cars and taken to Federal Reserve Banks.
From there they will be sent to banks across the country.



You pretty much know what happens to them after that.
You spend them on all sorts of stuff. Candy. Gum. Telephones. Games.

What's your favorite way to spend coins? Here's mine. Good-bye!



The End.