



Coin Program Poetry

Subject: Math

Grade Level: 3rd-4th grade

Summary: Students discuss and research an individual or event from a commemorative coin. They then use the information to write acrostic poems, creating stand-up accordion books to display the poems.

BIG QUESTIONS

How are important people, places, and events honored through coins?

TIMING

0 to 45 minutes

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students will collect, organize, and research data
- Students will use research to write creatively.
- Students will identify and name current and past coin programs.

MATERIALS

- [U.S. Mint Coin Classroom](#) coin programs:
 - [American Women Quarters](#)
 - [50 State Quarters](#)
 - [America the Beautiful Quarters](#)
 - [Lincoln Bicentennial Pennies](#)
 - [Westward Journey Nickels](#)
- Chart paper
- White paper or card stock
- Markers/crayons/colored pencils
- Tape

PROCEDURE

Introduce Coin Programs and Research Questions (15 minutes)

1. Research coin programs for your students to use by looking through the [U.S. Mint Coin Classroom](#) pages listed under Materials. Decide which coins or coin programs you want students to research.
2. You may also allow students to decide which program or coin they would like to research by giving them additional time during this lesson to review the pages on their own or assigning it as pre-work/homework in advance of the lesson.
3. Explain to the class that the U.S. Mint has coin programs that honor important people, places, and events. Share with students some examples and display some of the coins from the U.S. Mint Coin Classroom or using actual coins, like an American Women Quarters™ or 50 State quarter.
4. Create a K-W-L ("what we Know, what we Want to know, what we Learned") chart. Brainstorm with the class about the coin or coin program subject and take notes on the chart in the first two columns.
5. Divide the class into small groups and assign each group a question to research. Allow time and resources for the research. The links to the U.S. Mint website and U.S. Mint Coin Classroom below can start student research:
 - [U.S. Mint Coin Classroom](#) coin programs: [50 State Quarters](#), [American Women Quarters](#), [America the Beautiful Quarters](#), [Lincoln Bicentennial Pennies](#), [Westward Journey Nickels](#)
 - [U.S. Mint Image library](#) for more pictures of each coin
 - [U.S. Mint YouTube Channel](#) for coin-specific videos that explain the stories & designs and [America the Beautiful](#), [American Women Quarters](#)
 - [U.S. Mint Coin & Medal Archive](#) on the U.S. Mint website (reading level 4th grade or higher)
6. Sample research questions include:
 - General - Why was the subject of this coin / coin program selected? What makes it important?
 - America the Beautiful – Pick a quarter that shows a place you would like to visit. Describe the place, why you would like to visit, and how it relates to American history.
 - 50 States – Pick a quarter for a state you have never visited. Research what the symbols and writing on the coin means and how they relate to the state's history.
 - American Women Quarters – Research the life of one of the women featured on a quarter and explain how her life had an impact on the United States.
 - Lincoln Bicentennial Pennies – How do the images and writing on these pennies relate to Lincoln's life and American history?
 - Westward Nickels – How do the images and writing on these pennies relate to Lincoln's life and American history?
7. Have the groups share the answers they found with the class. Use the information to fill in the third column of your K-W-L chart.

U.S. Mint Coin Classroom Lesson Plan: Coin Program Poetry

Conduct Research, Write Poetry, and Create an accordion book (30 minutes)

1. Direct the students back into the same small groups, then have them write an acrostic for the commemorative coin, with the first letter of each line spelling out the name of the individual or event. For example, "Olympics" might read:

Originated in Athens

Links people of many nations together

Youngest athlete ever to compete was 12 years old

Myrriad of events

Participants come from many countries

Individual and team sports

Cities around the world vie for the honor of hosting the games

Summer and winter games are held every four years

2. Have the groups create an illustrated page for each line of their acrostic, and then tape the pages together to form a stand-up accordion book for display. Make sure students turn their paper horizontally make their poems and illustrations.



To make an accordion book, tape the pages together on the short side, see figure.

ASSESSMENT

Use the worksheets and class participation to assess whether the students have met the lesson objectives.

DIFFERENTIATE

- Have students write a brief essay explaining why the person or event was worthy of a coin.
- Using the [Design Your Own Coin](#) activity, ask students to design their own version of a coin honoring the same person, place, or event that they researched.
- Ask students to pick a person in their life that they would honor on a coin. Ask them to design the coin and write a brief essay about why they selected this person.

RELATED

- [U.S. Mint Coin Classroom](#) coin programs:
 - [American Women Quarters](#)
 - [50 State Quarters](#)
 - [America the Beautiful Quarters](#)
 - [Lincoln Bicentennial Pennies](#)
 - [Westward Journey Nickels](#)
- [Coin Program pages](#) on U.S. Mint website

U.S. Mint Coin Classroom Lesson Plan: Coin Program Poetry

- [Design Your Own Coin activity](#)
- [Making Change online game](#)

STANDARDS

Common Core Standards

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2](#)

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.7](#)

Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.8](#)

Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.9](#)

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.