

U.S. Mint Coin Classroom Lesson Plan: Penny Race



Penny Race

Subject: Math

Grade Level: K-2nd grade

Summary: Students will play a game where they determine the value of different coin combinations.

BIG QUESTION

How do I recognize pennies and their value?

TIMING

0 to 45 minutes

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students will recognize and express the value of a penny, nickel and dime.
- Students will solve simple addition problems using coins.
- Students will recognize coin equivalents (such as 5 pennies = one nickel).

MATERIALS

- Game board: A winding path divided into many spaces with a picture of a penny in each space.
- Game cards: Can be index cards or small pieces of paper with pictures of different combinations of coin denominations on them (pennies, nickels and dimes)
- Objects for game pieces (can be coins)

U.S. Mint Coin Classroom Lesson Plan: Penny Race

PROCEDURE

1. This game is best played with student in groups of 3 to 5. Each group will need a game board and game pieces. You can develop them, or can have students make their own boards and pieces.
2. Explain to the students the rules of the game.
3. To see who goes first, have each player take a game card from the pile. The player with the highest value goes first. In case of a tie, those two players draw again. All players then put their cards on the bottom of the pile.
4. On each turn, the student chooses a game card then moves their game piece along the penny path the number of cents equal to the value of their game card. For example, if their card has one nickel and one penny on it, the student moves their game piece six spaces.
5. The first person to make it to the finish line wins.

ASSESSMENT

Use game participation to evaluate the students' knowledge of the value of pennies, nickels and dimes, and how these coins relate to each other in value.

DIFFERENTIATE

Students can make different game boards and game cards. Their board can be nickels or dimes and their cards can be larger denomination coins.

RELATED

- U.S. Mint Coin Classroom circulating coin information:
<https://kids.usmint.gov/learn/kids/about-the-mint>

STANDARDS

This lesson is not associated with any Common Core standards.