Penny: the Forgotten Coin
*A Teacher’s Guide*

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based on the book by
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illustrated by Michael Monroe

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Where Are Pennies Made?

You can find out where coins are made in the United States by reading the book *Penny*. On the map below put the U.S. mints in the right place.

Name the two mints where the penny is made.

________________

________________
Could Abraham Lincoln have been president in 2004?

The book *Penny* shares with us why Abraham Lincoln was chosen to be on the penny.

Using the knowledge you have about Abraham Lincoln and what he stood for, would you vote for Abraham Lincoln if he were running for president in 2004? Give 3 reasons for your decision.

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An acrostic poem is a poem that describes. It uses each letter in a word to write descriptive words that start with that letter.

The book *Penny* will help you think of some good words to describe a penny.

Acrostic example-

A- ambitious, angelic, artistic  
M- mighty, makes people laugh  
Y- young, yellow hair

P

E

N

N

Y

*Challenge:* Make an acrostic poem using your name!
A penny doesn’t seem like much money, but if you add them up you might be surprised!

10 pennies = _____________
25 pennies = _____________
50 pennies = _____________
100 pennies = _____________
1,000 pennies = _____________
10,000 pennies = _____________
100,000 pennies = _____________

If you saved one penny a day how long would it take you to have $10.00?
______ days

Make up two money problems and have a friend try to solve them.
Fill-In Fun

1. ___ ___ N ___
2. ___ ___ Y ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
3. E ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
4. ___ ___ N ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
5. P ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

1. Place where coins are made
2. Penny minted in 1856
3. Number of designs for the penny
4. President found on the penny
5. Supplied copper for early pennies

Unscramble the **BOLD** letters and you will have found a lucky ______________.
MY PENNY DESIGN

The penny has a very interesting history. You can learn about this history in the book *Penny*.

You have been chosen to design a new penny. Think about a person or thing that you feel would best represent our country. Each side should have a different design.

Front                                    Back

Write a paragraph explaining why you chose this design.
Mental Penny Math

Mental math activities are a good way to fill time or to warm up before starting math class. Two or three a day work well.

1. 25 pennies plus 8 pennies =
2. 40 pennies plus 6 pennies minus 2 pennies =
3. 19 pennies minus 10 pennies plus 15 pennies =
4. 7 pennies minus 5 pennies plus 6 pennies minus 3 pennies =
5. 100 pennies times 3 minus 50 pennies =
6. 100 pennies plus 75 pennies minus one dollar =
7. 400 pennies divided by 2 minus 100 pennies equal how many dollars?
8. 10 pennies plus 8 pennies plus 5 pennies minus 2 pennies =

9. 5 pennies X 6 plus 10 pennies =
10. 7 pennies X 7 minus 7 pennies =
11. 30 pennies divided by 10 plus 20 pennies =
12. 50 pennies minus 25 pennies plus 15 pennies =
13. 200 pennies plus 16 pennies plus 10 pennies =
14. One dollar plus 18 pennies =
15. 13 pennies plus 13 pennies minus 26 pennies =
One Penny, Two Pennies

Making Plurals

The plurals of common nouns which end in *y*, and have a consonant just before the *y*, are formed by changing the *y* to *i* and adding *es*.

Example: penny--pennies

Change the following nouns to plurals.

1. bunny _____________________
2. sky ______________________
3. party ______________________
4. cherry _____________________
5. daisy ______________________
6. fly _________________________
7. cry _________________________
8. candy ______________________
9. berry _______________________
10. fry _________________________
Is the Glass Really Full?
Surface Tension

How many pennies can you add to a glass of water that is already full?

My estimate is ________________ pennies.

Materials
1 paper cup
water
30 to 40 pennies

Directions

1. Fill the cup right to the top with water. Make sure it can hold no more water.

2. Gently drop coins down the side of the glass, one at a time.

3. Keep adding pennies until the water overflows.

4. Repeat two more times.

Number of pennies the full glass of water held:

Trial one ___________ Trial two ____________

Trial three ___________

How close was your estimate?
What conclusion can you reach?
Penny Survey

Gather 100 pennies and look for the mint letter on them. It will be either a P for Philadelphia or a D for Denver.

Divide the pennies into two piles, one with P and one with D.

Count the number of pennies in each pile. Make a pie graph to show your results.
A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS!

WHAT?? No more pennies?! Read the book *Penny* to find out if this is possible.

What would happen if we didn’t have pennies?

**Directions**

1. Find a partner and together make a list of all the things you couldn’t do if there were no pennies.

2. Compare your list with another team. Circle the ideas that were the same as the other team’s ideas.

3. Put a box around your three best ideas.

4. Place your very best idea on a class chart. Don’t use an idea that is already on the chart.

5. Write a story about the day all the pennies disappeared. You may use any of the ideas from the class chart to help you write your story.
Penny’s Time Line

The book *Penny* will give you many interesting facts about the life of our least valuable American coin. After you have read the book take the facts listed below and cut them out.

Place them on the time line on the next page. Start with the earliest event and end with the latest event. After you have pasted the events on the time line, draw a penny that represents each event.

1787- First one-cent coin made
1792- First mint established
1909- First Lincoln penny
1859- Indian head penny
1943- Steel penny
1856- Flying eagle penny
1959- Lincoln Memorial added to reverse of the penny
Penny's Time Line
Trading-Up Game

The book *Penny* will give you wonderful information about the penny and its history. After you have read this book, try the trading-up game.

**Directions**

1. Cut out the question cards and shuffle them. Place them face down in a pile.
2. Find a partner. Take turns asking and answering the questions.
3. Score one penny for each correct answer you get.
4. The first person to get five points and trade-up to a nickel is the winner.
5. You could also play for a 10 or 15-cent trade-up.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The first penny was 100% what material?</th>
<th>What is the British word that “penny” came from?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(copper)</td>
<td>(pence)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In what year was the first one-cent coin made in America?</th>
<th>What famous American supplied copper for some of the early pennies?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1787)</td>
<td>(Paul Revere)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name the two mints that make the penny.</th>
<th>Today’s penny is made mostly of what material?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Philadelphia, Denver)</td>
<td>(zinc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who is pictured on the current penny?</td>
<td>(Abraham Lincoln)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do we call the place where coins are made?</td>
<td>(mint)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What famous building is shown on the back of the penny?</td>
<td>(Lincoln Memorial)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The need for copper during World War II caused pennies to be made of what material in 1943?</td>
<td>(steel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>True or False? The penny is the only coin to have the same person on both sides.</td>
<td>(true)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In which direction does Lincoln face on the penny?</td>
<td>(right)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>True or False? There was a penny named the Flying Eagle.</td>
<td>(true)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the Indian head penny show a portrait of a male or female Indian?</td>
<td>(female)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How many pennies does it take to equal $ 1.25?</td>
<td>(125)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>True or False? There has never been a shoe called a penny loafer.</td>
<td>(false)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>True or False?</td>
<td>True or False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The nickel was our country’s first coin.</td>
<td>For over 50 years you could mail a postcard for only one penny?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(false)</td>
<td>(true)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>True or False?</td>
<td>True or False?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You can find our national motto on the penny.</td>
<td>No more pennies will be made after this year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(true)</td>
<td>(false)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Penny’s Thoughts

After reading the book *Penny* you will have a better understanding of our smallest coin.

Today you woke up and found you had become a penny. You look yourself over carefully and find you were minted in Denver in 1975.

Write a story about the travels and adventures that you had on your way to a classroom in 2003.

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Read the book *Penny* to learn about how the United States got its oldest coin. Have fun with the penny toss game after you’ve read the book.

**Directions**

On a large poster board draw a bull’s-eye. Give each set of circles a different value.

5 pts. for the outside circle  
10 pts. for the middle circle  
25 pts. for the center circle

Each student has five pennies.

Take turns tossing the pennies onto the bull’s-eye.

Add up the points.

Highest point total wins.
Read the book *Penny* and then have some fun with pennies and their dates.

Take 30 pennies and arrange them by the dates appearing on each penny. Start with the earliest date. If you have more than one penny that has the same date put the pennies with the same date in a stack.

How many different dates did you have? ______________

Make a bar graph below showing this data. Don’t forget to label your graph.
Answer Sheet

Where Are Pennies Made?
Mints are located in Denver, Colorado; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Washington, D. C.; and West Point, New York.

Pennies are only minted in Denver and Philadelphia.

Counting Pennies
1) a dime  2) a quarter  3) fifty cents  4) $1.00  5) $10.00  6) $100.00  7) $1,000

At one penny a day, it would take 1,000 days to save $10.00.

Fill-In Fun
1) mint  2) Flying eagle  3) eleven  4) Lincoln  5) Paul Revere

Mental Penny Math
1) 33 cents (2) 44 cents (3) 24 cents (4) 5 cents (5) $2.50
(6) 75 cents (7) $1.00 (8) 21 cents (9) 40 cents
(10) 42 cents (11) 23 cents (12) 40 cents (13) $2.26
(14) $1.18 (15) $0.00

One Penny, Two Pennies
1) bunnies 2) skies 3) parties 4) cherries 5) daisies 6) flies 7) cries 8) candies 9) berries 10) fries