

CREATIVE ARTS ACTIVITY

Stage 3 | Creative Arts | Making VAS3.1; VAS3.2; Appreciating VAS3.4

Australian Currency Designs Activity

A coin's final design is carefully considered and will include important words, dates and symbolism.

The original gold coins produced at the Sydney Mint had a profile portrait of Queen Victoria stamped on them. They also had inscriptions, including 'Australia' and 'Sydney Mint' and their value – either 'Sovereign' or 'Half Sovereign'. In later years the words 'Sydney Mint' were replaced with a small 'S'.



Research activity

- Q. The Sydney Mint closed in 1926 – where are Australia's coins made today?
- Q. What are some of the different designs on the coins made there?

Creative Arts activity

Part I

Collect some coins – either from home, or from your pocket! Now, on an A4 sheet of paper, use a lead pencil to take a rubbing of them. Tracing paper works best if you have it and larger coins might work better as well. Write down the year they were made next to the picture.

- Q. What different designs or images are on them?
- Q. Who is on them?
- Q. Do you have coins of the same value, but that have different designs on them?

Need some help?

If you are not sure what the picture or animal is, you could use this document:
ramint.gov.au/sites/default/files/About%20our%20coins.pdf#page=1

Consider

- Q. Why do you think these different animals and people have been chosen?

Symbolism

- Q. What do they say about what is important to Australians and Australian society?

Part II: Design your own coin:

If you could design a new Australian coin what would be on it? Designing a coin takes a lot of skill, consideration and detailed drawing.

Consider how you would represent the following.

- people & society – different countries of origin or cultures
- something from our history
- an aspect of government
- the environment
- important citizen or citizens
- perhaps a significant event

You won't be able to include all of these – one side has to have the Queen on it! So perhaps just choose two, or maybe three, if you think you can squeeze it in.

You can use your coin rubbings as reference for your coin's composition

Remember – don't forget to make your coin worth something!

Need some inspiration? You can check out the design process at the Royal Australian Mint's website: ramint.gov.au/bite-sized/the-minting-process

What you need:

- Step 1: sketch some ideas in an art book but don't do too much detail
- Step 2: now you'll need 2 sheets of drawing paper (at least A4)
- Step 3: measure a circle 20cm in diameter on each page
- Step 4: start to create your coin design on the 20cm circles

To complete your coin design:

- cut out a cardboard circle (20cm in diameter)
- cut out the coins designs you have made
- stick them on the cardboard
- use thick cardboard if you can – to imitate a coin's thickness

Reflection

Why did you choose the people/ animals/ objects that you did? What does your coin symbolise?