


Understanding Australian coins (Year 1)

 30-45 mins

Learn about Australian coins, their features and value. This resource has been adapted from the unit of work: [Bertie's socks](#).

Outcomes

Students:

- Describe the features of Australian coins and notes
- Identify simple amounts using coins.
- Formulate simple questions and gather responses.

Curriculum links

Mathematics

- Recognise, describe and order Australian coins according to their value (ACMNA017)

English

- Engage in conversations and discussions, using active listening behaviours, showing interest, and contributing ideas, information and questions (ACELY1656)

Other resources

- Unit of work: [Bertie's socks](#).
- Digital resource: [Bertie's socks digibook](#)
- Digital resource: [Pay the price](#)
- Digital resource: [Money match](#)

Discovery (30 mins)

1. Shopping

Students consider the following questions about shopping and share their responses:

- What do we buy at the supermarket or department store?
- How do we decide what to buy at the supermarket? Department store?
- How can we pay for things?

2. Exploring coins

Encourage students to engage with the features of coins. This activity could be done using Australian coins and conducting a 'coin rubbing' with a crayon and paper or by using **Worksheet 1**.

- Describe each coin, one feature at a time (size, shape, picture, colour, etc).
- Get one student to describe a coin while another student tries to identify the coin based on the description.
- Use the [Match the print](#) activity (The Mint) to match animal/people prints to the coin. Maybe students can pretend to be that animal through mime.
- Test their memory - can they draw a coin from memory?
- Get students to close their eyes, feel a coin and identify it. Another way to do this is to place lots of coins in a bag and students reach in and try to find a specific coin through feel alone.

3. Exploring coin value

Teach students about the value of each Australian coin.

- Place every Australian coin in a row, from smallest to largest in *size*.
 - What is the smallest coin? What is the largest coin?
 - Are any of the coins the same size?
- Now place every Australian coin in a row, from smallest to largest in *value*.
 - What is the smallest coin? What is the largest coin?
- What is the total value when you add up all the Australian coins?
- Write a sum of money on a piece of paper (e.g. \$2.30) and ask students which coins they could use to make up that amount (e.g. \$2 + 20c + 10c).

Get practical (15 mins)

- Students design their own coin – maybe they can introduce a new Australian coin! What shape and value would it be? What colour and pictures will it have?
- Find coins from different countries (Google images). Which one do you like? What shape and colour is it? Does it have pictures on it?

Worksheet 1: Australian coins

