Design Your Own Coin!

Coins have been used as money for thousands of years. Many coins share similar designs. Most coins have a portrait on the front and some kind of symbol on the back. A symbol is a picture that is used instead of words, and can mean different things. For example, the back of quarters has a piece of the Great Seal of the United States on it. It shows an Eagle holding an olive branch and arrows. The olive branch has been a symbol of peace for thousands of years, while the arrow is a symbol of war. This means that Great Seal of the United States says that the nation wants peace, but is prepared for war.

Take a moment to examine these coins from Americas past. Then, use the template to design your own coin!

When you’ve finished designing your coin, show it to your friends, parents, or teacher and explain to them why the symbols and sayings you’ve used are important to you!
The back of the US quarter dollar has not changed much in a long time. This quarter is from 1898, and features the phrase printed on all standard US coins: E Pluribus Unum. This is Latin for: Out of Many, One.

The Lincoln Penny was first minted in 1909. "Minting" is how you make a coin with a stamping machine.

In case you think that commemorative coins are new, this coin from 1923 was made to celebrate two American Presidents, John Quincy Adams and James Monroe. John Quincy Adams was the first President who was not a Founding Father.
Draw Your Own Coin Template

Don't Forget!

1. Coins use symbols and portraits
2. Coins often have sayings like “E Pluribus Unum” written on them

What is your coin going to look like? Why did you use these symbols and words, and what do they mean?