

Four Fun Coin Activities for

She and the Yoyo and the Piggy Bank

a new book
by Susan Werner Thoresen
illustrated by Keith Eveland



1 **Coin identification.** This could be introduced with discussion about the sense of touch: “What if you could not see well?” Show each coin first using some identifier.

Approach 1. Place seven coins into one bag. Have a student put hand in the bag and identify the coin. Then pull it out to see if it was right. Repeat until all seven are identified.

Approach 2. Use six or seven paper or cloth bags, labeled 1-6 or 7, and put one coin in each bag: penny, nickel, dime, quarter, half-dollar and two one dollar coins. Provide a sheet of paper listing the coins and a space for the number. Have them identify the coins by reaching into the bags, without looking at them. Then write the number on the sheet that matches the coin.

Helpful questions to ask. Which is smallest? Which is largest? Which is second smallest? Which is not a circle? (If using the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin, you will see it is not a perfect circle.) What coin is the same size but is a circle? What is third smallest? What shapes can you feel on the coin?



2 **Quarters and the States.** You can order get a quarter holder in map form for about \$10.00 on this site: [www.wizardcoinsupply.com/product/littleton-fold-er-state-quarters-display-map.html]. On this map all fifty states have a coin slot.

The goal is to get all fifty coins with everyone in the class or group participating. You can make it competitive with teams or just do as a group experience. This would work best as a long-term class project over the course of the school year.

Ask everyone to bring in at least one quarter to start. Suggest you limit them to four so one student does not bring in the whole quarters collector’s kit all done.

Or you can use your own map of the US and mark off the coins as you get them. You can add the year of the actual quarter to the map of the states. You can also describe what is on that coin.

Once completed, you could reward the team that came in first with choosing something like ice cream for the class, a candy coin for each person, or something else. You may or may not be allowed to use the quarters to purchase a group reward.

3 Pennies. Most people have pennies around their house, wallet or car. Sometimes, they might have a really old one. Have everyone bring in 10-20 pennies.

Make white paper date sheets such as; “Before 1940, 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, and 2010s.” Explain a decade is ten years.

Have class put their pennies on the appropriate sheet. What decade has the most of the pennies? Are there any really old pennies? What changes do they see among the pennies in terms of color and what is on them? Could an old penny be worth more than a newer penny?

Next, the kids can set up a chain by year with the most recent to the oldest. This could be on a windowsill or on the floor.

Helpful historical questions you can ask. Who was President for your oldest penny? How would you find this out? In the 1940s and 1950s, kids could buy penny candy. Can you buy any candy for a penny now? Do you know any candy kids could buy in 1940s or 1950s that still exists today? How many pennies would you need to buy it now?

Here are a few math questions about saving pennies that could be linked into a discussion on goals.

If you saved ten pennies a day for a week, how many would you have?

If you saved ten pennies a week for a month, how many would you have?

If you saved ten pennies a day for the month of June, how many would you have?



4 One Dollar Coins. Most people are familiar with a one dollar bill, but may not be familiar with the dollar coin. Some other countries use US coins for their currency. For example, in Ecuador in South America, you might receive a Sakajawea coin in change.

Helpful historical questions you can ask. Why do you think Susan B. Anthony and Sakajawea are both on one dollar US coins? Susan B. Anthony was a teacher in Canajoharie, New York before she became famous. What did she do to merit being on a coin? Why is this coin difficult to use? Sakajawea was a Pacific Northwest native American whose husband was a French Canadian trader. Why is Sakajawea carrying a baby? What unusual thing did she do?

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