

# Investigating Australian Coins

## Classroom lesson ideas

Activity sheet title	Classroom lesson idea
<b>Australian coins</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Allow students to see and touch real coins. Ask students to describe what they can see and feel while they handle the coins. Ask them to explain how the coins are similar to, and different from, each other.</li></ul>
<b>Heads or tails?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Play games of head or tails. Allow the students to take turns in flipping the coins and announcing which side has landed facing up. Students could record the number of times each side appears.</li><li>● Talk to students about commemorative coins. Show examples if possible. Explain that the tails side of commemorative coins can be different, but the heads side must always have a picture of the Monarch's head on it (currently Queen Elizabeth II).</li></ul>
<b>Shapes, sizes and colours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Play 'Which coin am I?' by selecting a coin and then using its features to describe it to students. Allow students to have turns at being the 'describer'.</li><li>● Place coin/s in a bag. Students to put their hand in the bag and see if they can identify the coin/s just by feeling their size or shape.</li></ul>
<b>\$ and c</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Using catalogues, have students cut out examples of \$ and c symbols. Create a class collage.</li></ul>
<b>How much do I have?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Students select some coins from a bag and then describe what they have selected. For example 'I have two ten cent coins' or 'I have one five cent coin and one two dollar coin'.</li></ul>



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<b>Coin rubbings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Create a class coin rubbing mural using various colouring methods such as pencils, crayons, oil pastels, pencil shavings etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Lowest to highest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have students practise this with real coins. Ask six students to select a coin, then put themselves in order from lowest value to highest value.</li> <li>● Create a lowest to highest relay race. In teams of six, students line up and one at a time run to collect a coin from a bag. When all six students have a coin they put themselves in order from lowest to highest value. The first team to finish wins.</li> </ul>
<b>Which is worth more?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Two students each randomly select a coin from a bag. The student with the coin of higher value stays in the game. The other student is out and a new student comes forward to select a coin.</li> </ul>
<b>Coins from other places</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Encourage students to bring in coins they may have from other countries. Discuss the similarities, differences, values and appearance of the coins.</li> </ul>
<b>A visit to the Royal Australian Mint</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss what students know about coins and what they think they might see during their visit to the Mint.</li> </ul>

