

April Teacher Directions: Penny, the Forgotten Coin

Teacher Preparation for this Lesson: Gather at least 10 REAL pennies for each child, so they can start a collection of pennies in class, and continue at home. Get a file folder for each child. On the inside, staple the “Facts about Pennies” on the left side of the folder, and the “Coin Chart” on the right side of the folder. (These two worksheets are free downloadables for April.) You will also need little rolls of adhesive tape, at least one for every 2-3 children to share. If small magnifiers are available, it is fun for kids to use them to look at the details on the coins, but they are not absolutely required.

Read the Book: Read the main story and, depending on the age of the children, share the facts about pennies that are interspersed throughout. At the end of the book, the two friends flip the penny to make a heads-tails decision. This *could* function as an introduction to a probability lesson where you toss coins to see how close you can get to the predicted probability that half of the tosses will be “heads,” and half will be “tails.” Typically, the more tosses that you make, the closer you will get to the 50% mark. However, we chose *not* to focus on this topic. Instead, we intend to review the value of coins, and practice counting them; then get children started on a penny collection.

BANKO: This is a game like BINGO, but designed to practice counting coins. (There are free downloadable worksheets related to playing the game - including a BANKO game board, the numbers to call, and a chart for keeping track of what has been called.) With very young children, the teacher should make up a set of game boards by placing random numbers in each column. The **B** column uses the numbers 1-10, the **A** uses 11-20, the **N** uses 21-30, the **K** uses 31-40, and the **O** uses 41-50. Older children can pick their own numbers. Use coins to mark the numbers that have been called. Use pennies with younger children, for counting by 1’s. Use nickels to practice counting by 5’s, or dimes to practice counting by 10’s. Use mixed coins for older children. Play as if you were playing BINGO, but kids yell “BANKO” when they get 5 in a row. HOWEVER, there are two winners for each game: (a) the person who has five in a row, and (b) the person whose card has the most money in all, at that point.

Collecting Coins: Start children on a penny collection by giving each child just one penny. Have them look for the features of the coins that are described on the sheet called “Interesting Facts about Pennies.” Pass out the coin folders and have children find the year that their coin was minted. You may need to help some children find the given year, and understand that the years are in numerical order. Tape the penny down on its year. Then give each child nine more pennies to do on their own. Challenge children to see if they can find the missing years when they get home. For kids who like the activity, get them started on a collection nickels and dimes!

Lesson Extension: State Quarters

In the April Book-of-the-Month packet (\$19.99), not only do you get a copy of the book. You also get additional worksheets for starting a quarter collection. There is a small map of the U.S. to color each state as children find the corresponding state quarter. There is also a quarter folder to complete as a class until all 50 states are found. Then look at our list of trivia about the states. [Did you know that the Frisbee was invented in Connecticut?]

Other Children’s Books about Money:

Benny’s Pennies, by Pat Brisson (counting pennies, for PK-K)

Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday, by Judith Viorst (spending a total of \$1.00)

The Penny Pot, by Stuart J. Murphy (counting coins)

The Go-Around Dollar, by Barbara Johnston Adams (facts about the dollar bill)

Weblinks:

Counting Coins http://www.hbschool.com/activity/counting_money/

Place the States on the Map http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/states_experiment_drag-drop_Intermed_State15s_500.html

Factual Information about the States <http://illuminations.nctm.org/ActivityDetail.aspx?ID=151>