

## Money Doesn't Grow on Trees?

**Time Needed:** One Class Period

**Materials Needed:**

Pennies or other coins; Student worksheets; Transparencies (*copy overhead masters onto them*); Overhead projector (or Interactive WB)

**Copy Instructions:**

Kids' Coin template (*class set*)  
Student worksheet (*class set*)

**Learning Objectives.** Students will be able to:

- Identify requirements for the new coin by analyzing a "Presidential Announcement."
- Model the legislative process by voting for a "bill" authorizing the new coin.
- Act out executive approval by accepting or vetoing the bill.
- Participate in the bill's "execution" by designing a new coin.
- Recall the steps of the coin-making process by completing a

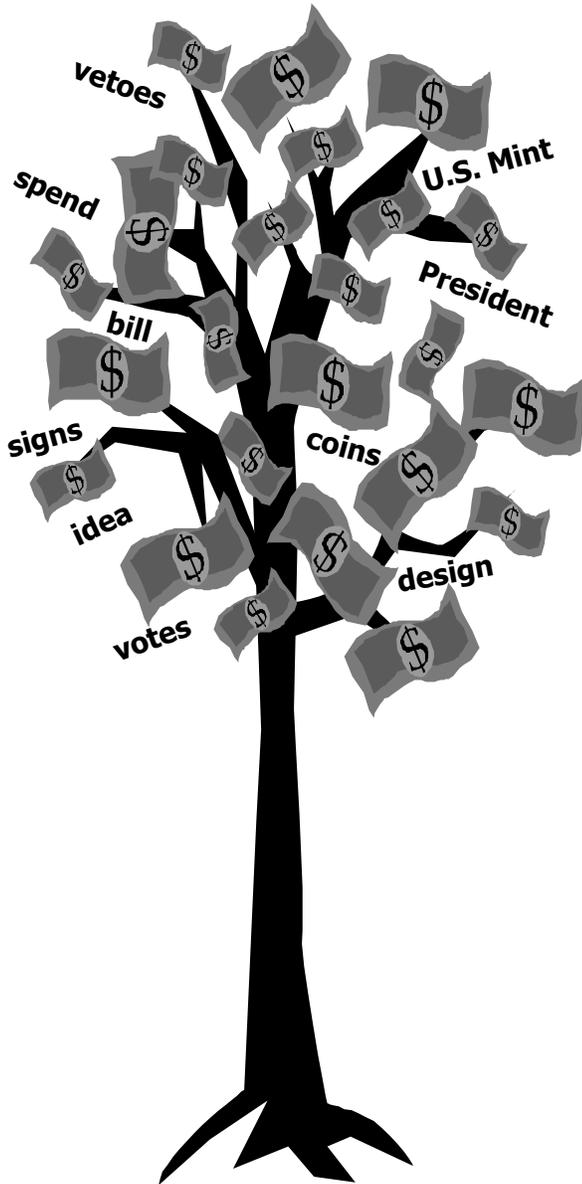
### STEP BY STEP

- 1) ANTICIPATE** by showing the class the coins you have brought. Ask where they think money comes from. Call on students for answers. Explain that today they create a new coin as a way of learning how the executive and legislative branches work together.
- 2) DISTRIBUTE** coins of whatever denominations you feel comfortable letting students borrow. Ask students to study the coins to see what is on them.
- 3) SHOW** the "Look at Your Money" transparency and use it to compile a list of what the class finds on the coins.
- 4) CHOOSE** one student to act as the President.
- 5) SHOW** transparency master #2, "Step One: The President Gets an Idea!" Have the "President" you selected read the presidential announcement to the class. Ask the class to help you fill in the blanks in the "President's Requirements" section.
- 6) Show** the first half of transparency master #3, "Step Two: Congress Makes a Bill."
- 7) LEAD** the class through a vote to decide which coin should be updated. Write the name of the coin in the blank space in the bill.
- 8) READ** the bill with the class.
- 9) SHOW** the second half of transparency master #3, "Step Three: Presidential Approval." With the class, walk through the President's requirements for the bill to see whether they are met. (They are.) Then have the "President" you selected approve the bill. Explain that if the requirements had not been met, the President would veto the bill. In that case, Congress could override the veto with a 2/3 vote.
- 10) ASK** students who they think would actually choose a design and make the coins now that the law is passed. Would the President do it?
- 11) SHOW** the first half of transparency master #4, "Step Four: Execution at the U.S. Mint! Gathering Kids' Ideas." Read through the contest rules and explain that the students will be making designs for a new coin.
- 12) DISTRIBUTE** one "The Kids' Coin" handout to each student. (The "Money Doesn't Grow on Trees?" worksheet should be on the back side of the handout.)
- 13) ASK** students to draw their ideas for the Kids' Coin. Give a limited amount of time for students to finish, according to how much time you have.
- 14) SHOW** the second half of transparency #4, "Step Five: Execution at the U.S. Mint! Making the Money." Direct students' attention to the transparency, and use it to explain how the ideas would get transformed into actual coins that people could use.
- 15) WRAP UP** by having students complete the "Money Doesn't Grow on Trees?" worksheet. They should be able to complete it without referencing the transparencies.

# Money Doesn't Grow on Trees?

Name: **\*\* Teacher Key \*\***

For each sentence, first find the answer on the money tree and write it in the space. Then circle which branch performs the task that the sentence describes.



1) The President gets an idea for a new coin.

- (a) Legislative Branch    (b) Executive Branch

2) The President calls on Congress to take action.

- (a) Legislative Branch    (b) Executive Branch

3) Congress creates a bill and votes to approve it.

- (a) Legislative Branch    (b) Executive Branch

4) The President signs or vetoes the bill.

- (a) Legislative Branch    (b) Executive Branch

5) If necessary, Congress votes again to override a veto.

- (a) Legislative Branch    (b) Executive Branch

6) The U.S. Mint, a government agency, chooses a design.

- (a) Legislative Branch    (b) Executive Branch

7) The U.S. Mint makes the coins.

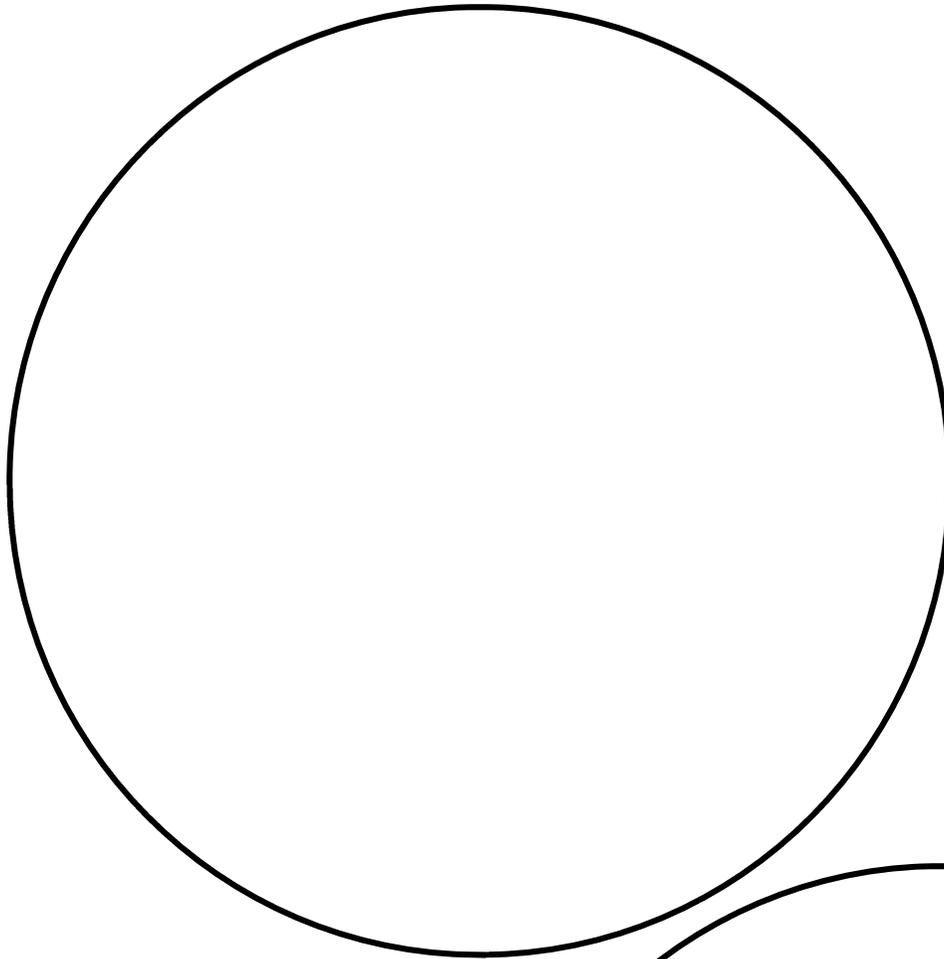
- (a) Legislative Branch    (b) Executive Branch

8) People get the money and spend it!

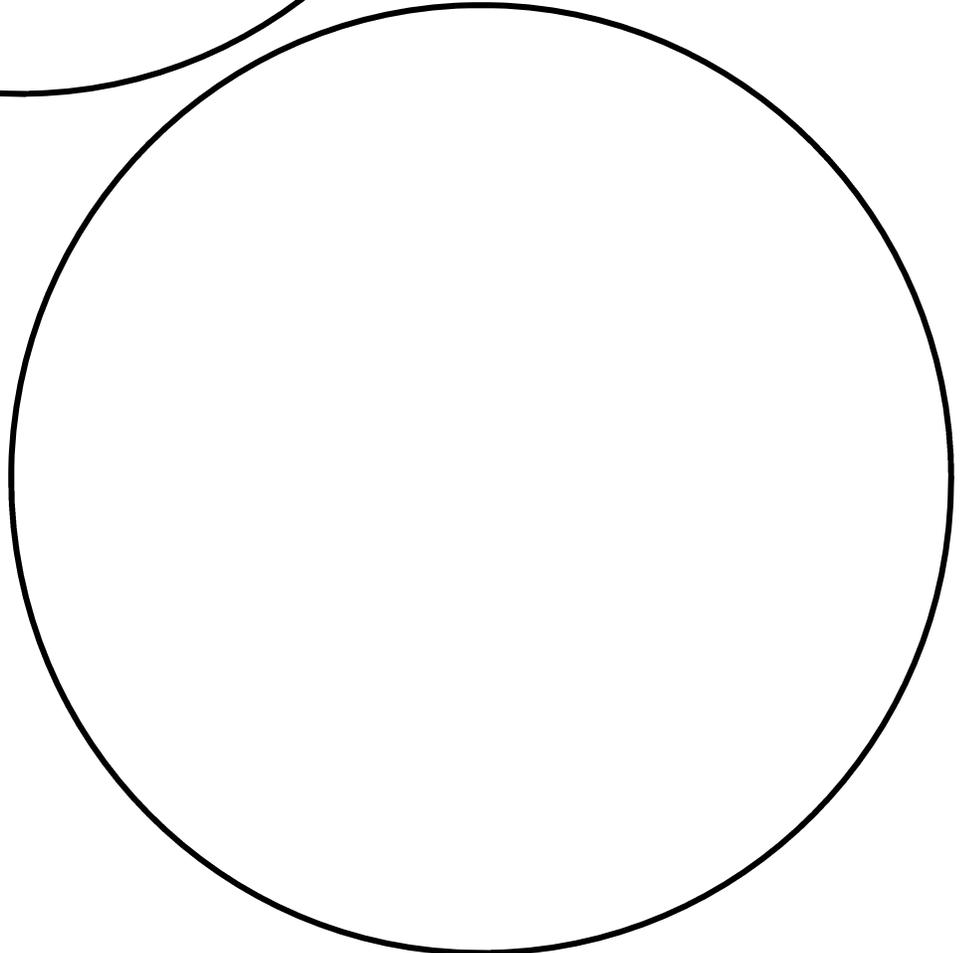


# The Kids' Coin

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**FRONT**



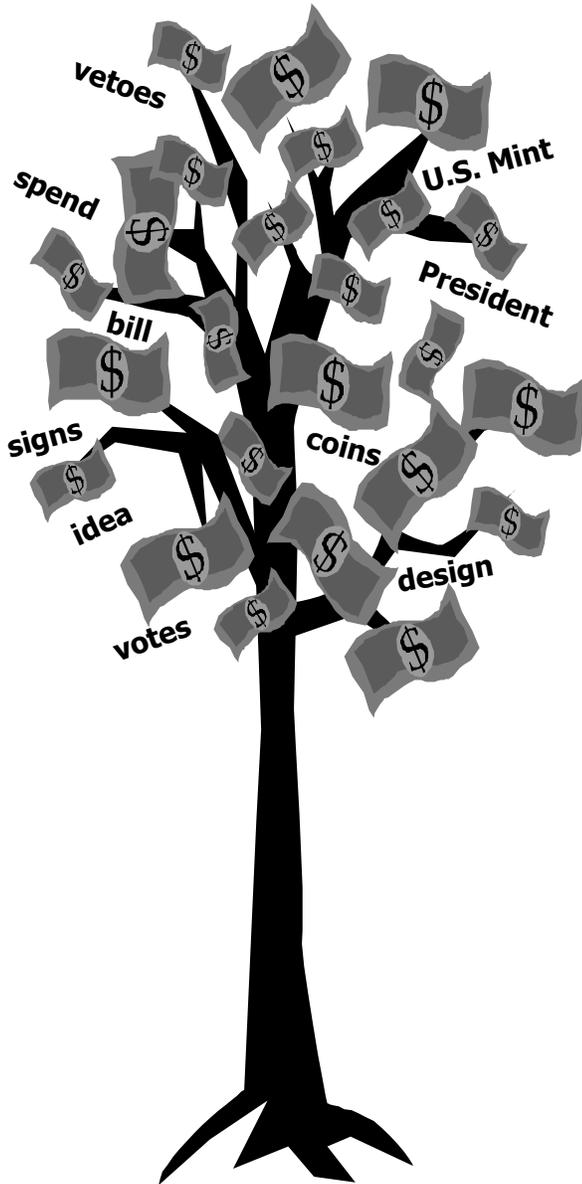
**BACK**



# Money Doesn't Grow on Trees?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

For each sentence, first find the answer on the money tree and write it in the space. Then circle which branch performs the task that the sentence describes.



1) The President gets an \_\_\_\_\_ for a new coin.

- (a) Legislative Branch (b) Executive Branch

2) The \_\_\_\_\_ calls on Congress to take action.

- (a) Legislative Branch (b) Executive Branch

3) Congress creates a \_\_\_\_\_ and votes to approve it.

- (a) Legislative Branch (b) Executive Branch

4) The President \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ the bill.

- (a) Legislative Branch (b) Executive Branch

5) If necessary, Congress \_\_\_\_\_ again to override a veto.

- (a) Legislative Branch (b) Executive Branch

6) The \_\_\_\_\_, a government agency, chooses a \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Legislative Branch (b) Executive Branch

7) The U.S. Mint makes the \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Legislative Branch (b) Executive Branch

8) People get the money and \_\_\_\_\_ it!



# LOOK AT YOUR MONEY!

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**Dimes, nickels, pennies, quarters ... Ever really looked your money?  
What do you see?**

1.) \_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_

3.) \_\_\_\_\_

4.) \_\_\_\_\_

5.) \_\_\_\_\_

6.) \_\_\_\_\_

7.) \_\_\_\_\_

8.) \_\_\_\_\_

9.) \_\_\_\_\_

10.) \_\_\_\_\_

# Step One: The President Gets an Idea!

## Presidential Announcement

Hello! Thank you all for coming.

Americans use money every day. When shopping for clothes or groceries, they use pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters.

The pictures and words on our money reflect our history and values. It's time to shake things up! We need money that shows the great things happening in our country today, especially with our children.

I want to hear from America's kids about what they want to see on our money. That is why I am calling on Congress to choose one of our coins and pass a bill that calls for it to be updated by the kids of this country.

If Congress does this, then I will sign the bill into law. Now get to work!



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## *The President's Requirements*

What does the President want to see in the bill Congress creates?

- 1.) Show great things happening with \_\_\_\_\_ in our country.
- 2.) Choose one \_\_\_\_\_ to update.
- 3.) Find out what kids want to \_\_\_\_\_ on the coin.

# Step Two: Congress Makes a Bill

Congress will choose the following coin to be the Kids' Coin: (circle the winner)

Quarter: VOTES: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickel: VOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dime: VOTES: \_\_\_\_\_ Penny: VOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Bill: The "Kids' Coins"**

Whereas pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters are in everyday use by millions of Americans;

Whereas the President has called for coins that show the great things kids do in our country;

*Resolved*, that Congress—

- 1) Chooses the \_\_\_\_\_ to be updated by kids; and  
(coin)
- 2) Calls on the U.S. Mint to gather input from kids for the new design; and
- 3) Names the new coin the "Kids' Coin."

Votes for: \_\_\_\_\_ Votes against: \_\_\_\_\_

# Step Three: Presidential Approval

Does the bill meet the President's requirements, or will it get vetoed?

*For the President:* \_\_\_\_\_ Approve Bill \_\_\_\_\_ Veto Bill



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

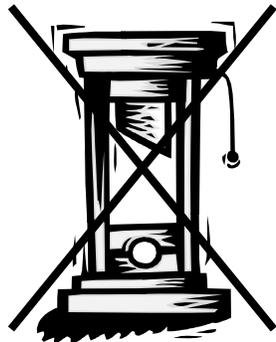
# Step Four: Execution at the U.S. Mint!

## Gathering Kids' Ideas

*The U.S. Mint is pleased to announce ...  
a CONTEST for the best "Kids' Coin!"*

### Contest Rules:

1. The new coin must show things that are important to kids.
2. The new coin must include the 4 phrases already required by law:
  - \* e pluribus unum
  - \* Liberty
  - \* In God We Trust
  - \* Unites States of America
3. The new coin must have a picture on the front and back.



*Not that kind of execution!*



# Step Five: Execution at the U.S. Mint!

## Making the Money

People at the U.S. mint look through all the entries for a winner...



... and send the design to the mint for the coins to be made!

