

MARCH

The Ides of March

Did you know that the month of March was named after Mars, the Roman god of war? Speaking of Romans, March 15 was a bad day for the most famous Roman of all, Julius Caesar. Before Caesar, the Ides of March was considered nothing dark or sinister.

When a Roman spoke of the Ides of March, he was simply talking about March 15. Legend has it that a seer told Caesar to, "Beware of the Ides of March" to let him know that trouble could happen to Caesar up until that date. Caesar was assassinated at a session of the Senate in the Theatre of Pompey. Led by Cassius and Brutus, it is estimated that there were up to 60 co-conspirators.

As most numismatists know, the Eid Mar denarius commemorates the death of Julius Caesar at the hands of Brutus and Cassius. It is safe to say that even though the profile of Brutus appears on the obverse of the coin, the coin is associated as much with Julius Caesar as it is with Brutus himself.

The following activity involves leaders who experienced untimely deaths. Your task is to determine the currency and subject that the clue is alluding to.



1. This paper currency features the assassinated President of a land-locked country in central Africa that at one time was the largest country of French Equatorial Africa.
Subject: _____
Note: _____
2. This coin features the bust of a conquistador who was beheaded in Panama. The coin is known by many numismatists as the "Panama Pill."
Subject: _____
Coin: _____
3. A commemorative gold coin that features a man who was shot at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo by Leon Czolgosz.
Subject: _____
Coin: _____
4. This 3 peso coin made of copper-nickel portrays a leader on the obverse that was executed while trying to start a revolution in Bolivia.
Subject: _____
Coin: _____
5. The monarch on this crown died of natural causes. His reign lasted only 9 years after being the heir-apparent for 59 years.
Subject: _____
Coin: _____
6. The princess on this 1981 dollar was involved in a fatal car crash.
Subject: _____
Coin: _____
7. This coin, minted in 1913, has the image of Michael Feodorovich as well as this ruler who, along with his family, was killed in 1918.
Subject: _____
Coin: _____



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The Ides of March (Continued)

8. A ten escudos piece, first minted in 1977, features this President of the Mozambican Liberation Front who was assassinated in Tanzania.

Subject: _____

Coin: _____

9. It has always been rumored that the wife of the subject of this dollar coin had something to do with his demise in San Francisco because she did not allow an autopsy.

Subject: _____

Coin: _____

10. This 10 pesos coin minted in 1960 features the conjoined busts of Francisco Madero and this “father of Mexican independence.”

Subject: _____

Coin: _____

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ANSWERS

1. Subject: Francois Tombalbaye
Note: Chad 10,000 francs 1971
2. Subject: Balboa
Coin: Panama 2½ centesimos 1904 KM# 1
3. Subject: William McKinley
Coin: United States Louisiana Purchase Exposition dollar 1903
4. Subject: Che Guevara
Coin: Cuba 3 pesos 1990 KM# 346
5. Subject: Edward VII
Coin: Great Britain crown 1902 KM# 803
6. Subject: Princess Diana
Coin: Cook Islands dollar 1981 KM# 7b
7. Subject: Nicholas II
Coin: Russia ruble 1913 KM Y#70
8. Subject: Eduardo Mondlane
Coin: Cape Verde 10 escudos 1977 KM# 19
9. Subject: Warren Harding
Coin: United States Presidential dollar 2014
10. Subject: Miguel Hidalgo
Coin: Mexico 10 pesos 1960 KM# 476