

# Coins in the Classroom



## A Roman Wedding

Students often learn best by doing. What could be more fun than having your students organize and perform a Roman wedding?

In this activity, students are challenged to recreate a Roman wedding. As students will discover, many traditions used in weddings of today were started over a thousand years ago during the Roman Empire. The best part about this activity is that actual Roman coins will be used as they were originally intended. Wouldn't it be great to have the men who minted the coins travel in time to the present day to see their coins used as money one last time?

**PURPOSE** This activity is designed for middle and high school educators looking for a fun culminating activity after students have researched their Roman coins.

**GOALS** At the end of this activity, students will be able to:  
Describe the ceremonial customs of a Roman wedding.  
Compare and contrast the customs of a modern wedding to that of a Roman wedding.

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

1. Roman coins \*
2. Video camera.
3. An area that is conducive to filming a wedding. This could be an empty classroom decorated as in the days of Rome or an area outside that is picturesque.
4. Students will need bed sheets to use as togas.
5. Roman/wedding food for reception as needed.



## MAKING MONEY MADNESS

### INTRODUCTION

1. Ask students to describe a wedding ceremony they have attended. Be sure to discuss as many different types of ceremonies as possible.
2. From the students' observations, prepare a list of any customs that are related.

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. Access information about Roman weddings from the following site:  
<http://rome.mrdonn.org/weddings.html>
2. Have students complete a Venn diagram using modern wedding customs and Roman wedding customs as subjects.
3. Have students research the term "dowry". Are dowries used today? Have students give examples.
4. Assign roles to students for the Roman wedding. Be sure to have the following: Bride, Groom, Parents of Bride and Groom, Priest and witnesses. Have students practice their role in preparation for the event.
5. Ask for volunteers to make food. A cake is especially important as it is part of the ceremony. Video tape the event for students to see.

### INTERNET RESOURCES

Search terms: Dowry

Websites: <http://rome.mrdonn.org/weddings.html>

<http://ancientcoinsforeducation.org/>

\*Roman coins can be located from several sources. Coins dealers will often sell lower grade Roman coins at very reasonable prices. Ancient Coins for Education, Inc. (ACE) offers teachers a way to obtain ancient coins for student study and attribution with the help on online and computer resources.

