

Coins in the Classroom



The Evolution of the U.S. Silver Dollar

Script

This PowerPoint presentation is designed to help students understand:

1. The history behind the flagship denomination of United States coins.
2. The changes in silver dollar design that reflects the history and culture of the United States.

Materials: Examples of dollar coins that students can hold will make the presentation more meaningful. Copies of the early expensive dollars can be purchased for a fraction of the cost.

Slide 1 – Title page

Slide 2 – Before the United States was founded, the colonies depended on money from other countries. This coin is the famous 8 Reale. The 8 Reale was divided up into units called “bits.”

Slide 3 – Mint information

Slide 4 – The first silver dollars were all struck on the same day.

Slide 5 – The coin had a representation of Lady Liberty. No denomination was placed on the coin.

Slide 6 – The coin is considered rather crude for that time by European standards. Many critics said the eagle more closely resembled a chicken.

Slide 7 – When the Mint first began operations, it depended on private citizens to deposit silver bullion with which to make coins. The finished coins were then returned to the citizens. When the amount of silver per dollar was increased, depositors received fewer dollars for their silver and were angered.

Slide 8 – Of the 2,000 dollars struck, 1,758 were deemed of sufficient quality for circulation.

Slide 9 – The new design in 1795 showed a more mature Liberty. The model for Liberty was Philadelphia socialite Ann Willing Bingham. She was considered the most beautiful in Philadelphia.

Slide 10 – Considered an improvement over the original design.

Slide 11 – New design included a mistake.

Slide 12 – In the right talon, the eagle is holding arrows and in the left talon the eagle is holding an olive branch. Because the right side is considered the dominate side, some individuals believed that the coin’s “message” was that the United States valued war over peace.

Slide 13 – Example of an 1804 dollar.

Slide 14 – Even though the Mint reported that 19,570 silver dollars were minted in 1804, to save money, the Mint most likely used dies left over from the previous year. Only 15 dollars dated 1804 were produced.

Slide 15 – Suspension of silver dollar coinage was lifted in 1831. It was not until 1836 that silver dollars were again coined in very limited numbers.

Slide 16 – Gobrecht dollar example.

Slide 17 – The Liberty Seated design were first issued in 1840. Cap at the end of the pole dates back to Liberty caps given to freed slaves in Rome. By 1853, the silver in the dollar was worth more than face value. Many of the coins were exported.

Slide 18 – Example of Seated Liberty dollar.

Slide 19 – Trade dollars were issued for circulation in the Orient. They were legal tender in the United States for a short time. The “Crime of 1873” involved the United States leaving the bimetallic standard in favor of a standard of gold. Owners of silver mines in the west were outraged.

Slide 20 – Example of a trade dollar.

Slide 21 – The Morgan dollar is most likely the most popular coin series in coin collecting. The model for Liberty was Miss Anna Willess Williams. Miss Williams later became a schoolteacher and disliked any attention brought to her for her portrait use. The coin was not very popular with the public.

Slide 22 – Example of a Morgan dollar.

Slide 23 – The Peace dollar was designed to commemorate the end of World War I. The design on the reverse is very symbolic. An eagle at rest with folded wings sits on a rock that is labeled, “Peace.” There are no arrows in the eagle’s talons, only an olive branch. In the background, rays from the sun appear as if to proclaim a new day.

Slide 24 – Peace dollar example.

Slide 25 – In 1965, 316,076 dollars dated 1964 were produced. The coins did not go into circulation and were subsequently melted.

Slide 26 – The Eisenhower dollar was created to honor President Dwight Eisenhower and the first landing of a man on the moon. Due to their size, the coins did not circulate well.

Slide 27 – In an effort to alter the size so that dollars would circulate, the Mint produced the Susan B. Anthony dollar. The Anthony dollar was often confused with the similar sized quarter. Susan B. Anthony was the first real woman to appear on a circulating United States coin.

Slide 28 – The Mint changed the color of the dollar coin to prevent further confusion with other denominations. Sacagawea appears on the front of the coin with her baby Jean Baptiste.

Slide 29 – Presidential Series: George Washington

Slide 30 – Presidential Series: John Adams

Slide 31 – Presidential Series: Thomas Jefferson

Slide 32 – Presidential Series: James Madison

Slide 33 – Presidential Series: James Monroe

Slide 34 – Presidential Series: John Quincy Adams

Slide 35 – Presidential Series: Andrew Jackson

Slide 36 – Presidential Series: Martin Van Buren

Slide 37 – Presidential Series: William Henry Harrison

Slide 38 – Presidential Series: John Tyler

Slide 39 – Presidential Series: James Polk

Slide 40 – Presidential Series: Zachary Taylor

Slide 41 – Presidential Series: Millard Fillmore

Slide 42 – Presidential Series: Franklin Pierce

Slide 43 – Presidential Series: James Buchanan

Slide 44 – Presidential Series: Abraham Lincoln

Slide 45 – Presidential Series: Andrew Johnson

Slide 46 – Presidential Series: Ulysses S. Grant