Dollar Squad
FALL 2026
Squad ★★ REPORT

All About Pennies!

MINTING IS HOW COINS ARE MADE, USING HEAVY MACHINES TO STAMP DESIGNS ONTO METAL DISCS. THE U.S. MINT MAKES ALL THE COINS FOR AMERICAN MONEY.

Did you know coins can "retire"?

November 12th marks the 1-year anniversary of the last penny being minted which put the penny in retirement. Why? It costs more to make a penny than the penny is worth—around 3.7 cents for each 1-cent coin. We saved about $56 million a year when we stopped making pennies!



What can you do with your pennies?

While new pennies aren't being made, there are still about 114 billion pennies that can be used until they're damaged or lost. Use your pennies when you buy something with cash or take them to a coin machine at Texell's 31st St. or Belton branches to deposit them into your Squad account!

BECOME A COLLECTOR

You can also become a coin collector and search for rare coins, like the 1943 Lincoln Wheat penny. Pennies were supposed to be made of steel to save copper and nickel during World War II, but a few were made by mistake. Fun Fact - The highest amount paid for one of these is $1.7 million at auction in 2010!



image from USA Coin Book - usacoinbook.com

History of the Penny

The penny was one of the first coins made in 1792, when the U.S. Mint was founded. The first penny showed a woman with flowing hair and stood for freedom. Abraham Lincoln first appeared on the penny in 1909 to remember the 16th president on his 100th birthday. This makes the penny the first U.S. coin with the image of a real person.

Hidden Penny Activity Solution:



JOIN THE CLUB!

The world's largest coin club is the American Numismatic Association (coin collectors are called numismatists.) If you are 17 years old or younger, you can join the Young Numismatist club to get a chance to collect coins for free! Visit money.org/young-numismatists to learn more.

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Clean Penny Magic Trick!

MATERIALS:

- Dirty pennies
- Vinegar or lemon juice
- Salt
- 2 small bowls

DIRECTIONS:

1. Set out the bowls.
2. Add a quarter cup of lemon juice in one bowl and quarter cup of vinegar in the other.
3. Add a teaspoon of salt to each bowl.
4. Drop the pennies in, let them soak for about five minutes.
5. Watch dirty pennies become shiny again!





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