

3/8/26

Made Of Money

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes
Number of players: Unlimited
Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers
Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

Let's see how much you know about US currency!

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read the first question. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may "buzz" in and answer.
4. Scoring: Give 10 points for each correct answer.

3/8/26

Made of Money

Instructions: Let's see how much you know about US currency.

QUESTIONS

1. If you have a Lincoln, a Mercury, and a Buffalo coin in your pocket, how much money do you have?
2. What is the meaning of the inscription *E Pluribus Unum*, first used on the \$5 gold piece of 1795?
3. A person who collects coins is a numismatist (new•MISS•ma•tist)? Spell numismatist.
4. Prior to the introduction of the nickel, five-cent pieces were very small silver coins called "half dimes." Due to shortages of silver during and after the American Civil War, an alternative metal was needed for five-cent coinage. However, the term nickel is somewhat misleading, because the coin is mostly made from this different, reddish-orange metal.
5. What four-word inscription first appeared on US coins in 1864 and is now required by law to be on all currency?
6. The life expectancy of a circulating coin is 30 years ... but how long does the average paper money last?
7. Only a few women have ever appeared on US money (bills or coins); can you name two of them?
8. "Paper" money is a misnomer. What two fabrics are used to make US paper currency?
9. If you have a Washington, a Jackson, and a Franklin bill, how much money do you have?

10. In the US, paper money is printed by the Bureau of Engraving, while coins are made by the United States Mints. Can you name one of the six current locations where you might find money being made at the two Bureaus of Engraving and the four US Mints?
11. The US holds the world's largest stash of gold by a wide margin. US gold reserves weigh in at over 8,000 metric tons. Germany is in second place with a mere 3,350 metric tons. Where is most of the US gold stored?
12. In 1999, the US Mint began honoring each state on a quarter, starting with this state, which was the first to ratify the Constitution.
13. The half dollar minted from 1946 to 1951 was the first coin to feature an African-American. Who was the civil rights pioneer, and first leader of Alabama's Tuskegee Institute from 1881 to 1915, who graced this short-lived coin?
14. This question is just for fun: If you had one billion dollars in \$1 bills and spent one every second of every day, how long would it take you to go broke? (Hint: There are 86,400 seconds in a day.)

3/8/26

Made of Money

ANSWERS

1. 16 cents (Lincoln penny, Mercury dime, and Buffalo nickel)
2. *E Pluribus Unum* is Latin for *Out of Many, One* (denoting one country made from many states).
3. **N-U-M-I-S-M-A-T-I-S-T**
4. Copper
5. In God We Trust
6. 18 months
7. Susan B. Anthony (\$1 coin); Sacagawea (\$1 coin); Martha Washington (\$1 bill in the late 1800s); Pocahontas (\$10 bill, 1869-1878); Helen Keller (2003 state quarter of Alabama. In addition, the following women were featured in the 2022–2025 American Women Quarters program: Maya Angelou, Dr. Sally Ride, Wilma Mankiller, Nina Otero-Warren, Anna May Wong, Bessie Coleman, Edith Kanaka'ole, Eleanor Roosevelt, Jovita Idar, Maria Tallchief, Pauli Murray, Patsy Mink, Mary Edwards Walker, Celia Cruz, and Zitkala-Sa
8. Linen (25%) and cotton (75%). That's why "paper" money can survive being washed – and even tumbled in the dryer!
9. \$121 (Washington-\$1, Jackson-\$20, Franklin-\$100)
10. The Bureaus of Engraving are located in Washington, DC and Fort Worth Texas. The US Mints are located in Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco, and West Point, NY.
11. Fort Knox, Kentucky (at the US Bullion Depository)
12. Delaware
13. Booker T. Washington
14. 31.7 years