



30–45 mins.



Lower Primary

Understanding Australian coins

In this lesson students learn about Australian coins, their features, and their value.

Outcomes

Students:

- understand what Australian coins look like, their value and their purpose
- identify and describe the features and value of Australian coins
- make simple calculations using coins

Curriculum links v9.0

English

[AC9E1LY02](#)

Mathematics

[AC9M1A01](#)

[AC9M1N06](#)

[AC9M2N04](#)

HASS

[AC9HS6K08](#)

Technologies:

[AC9TDE2K01](#)

[AC9TDE2P01](#)

The Arts

[AC9AVA2C01](#)

General Capabilities

Numeracy

Understanding money Level 1–4

Number patterns and algebraic thinking Level 1

Other resources

[Lower Primary | Royal Australian Mint \(ramint.gov.au\)](#)

[Making money amounts \(aitsl.edu.au\)](#)

Getting started (10–15 mins)

What are Australian coins and how are they used?

Open a discussion with your class about their familiarity with coins.

- Show your students a selection of coins and ask them if they know what they are.
- How do people use coins?
- Talk to students about spending: How do people in their family use coins? How do other people they know use coins?
- Talk to students about savings: Where do people keep coins? Why do people save coins? Do students have coins they are saving?

Discovery (20–35 mins)

Exploring coins

Encourage students to engage with the features of Australian coins.

- Consider doing a 'coin rubbing' with a crayon and paper or use the pictured coins from **Worksheet 1**, to discuss, trace over, or cut out.
- Ask students to look closely at each coin - consider the features of the coins (the size, the shape, the picture, the colour, etc.).
- How are the coins similar? How are they different?
- Ask students to play a guessing game with a partner. Taking turns, students describe a coin until their partner guesses correctly.

Additional exploration

- Who/what is featured on each coin?
- Choose a worksheet from the [Royal Australian Mint](#).
- Find examples of what coins from other countries look like. Students may want to bring in a unique coin they have at home to share with the class.

Understanding the value of coins

Help students understand the value of each coin.

- Ask students to place coins in a row (from smallest to largest in **size**).
 - › Which is the smallest coin? Which is the largest coin?
 - › Discuss why coins are different shapes.
- Ask students to place coins in a row (from smallest to largest in **value**).
 - › Which coin has the smallest value? Which coin has the highest value?



Understanding Australian coins

Extension (5–20mins)

- What is the total value when you add up all the Australian coins?
- Ask students how many ways they could combine coins to make \$2 (e.g., \$2 coin, 2 x \$1 coin, 4 x 50c).
- Design a new coin. Choose the shape, value, material, colour and images. Explain its value compared to other coins and share the designs.
- [Coin history](#) with the Royal Australian Mint.

Worksheet 1: Australian coins

