**LOTS AND LOTS OF COINS**

By Margarette S. Reid

**Louisiana Young Reader’s Choice Nominee 2014**

**Grade 3-5**

*Submitted by Chely Cantrell, Branch Manager and Lakeisha Bosworth, Head of Children’s Services, Ouachita Parish Public Library*

**Lots and Lots of Coins** by Margarette S. Reid. Illustrations by True Kelley. 32 pages. 2011. Dutton Juvenile.

**SUMMARY**

*Lots and Lots of Coins* is a juvenile non-fiction book which discusses the history of coin money through the voices of father and son coin collectors. They present different coins and items that were used as money throughout history and in different parts of the world. The duo discusses mathematical value of different coins in relation to a dollar and the look and feel of common and rare coins. The book displays valuable information in small easy to digest facts that are accompanied by vibrant illustrations.

**AUTHOR’S BIOGRAPHY**

Margarette S. Reid lives in Rockville, Maryland and is a retired secondary and elementary school teacher. She attended Bucknell University and the University of Maryland.

**ILLUSTRATOR’S BIOGRAPHY**

True Kelley resides in New Hampshire. She attended the University of New Hampshire and the Rhode Island School of Design. Her career includes advertising illustration and educational publishing. She has published over 100 books. ([www.truekelley.com](http://www.truekelley.com))

**CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS**

**ART**

1. Design Your Own Money – discuss the traditional shapes and colors of money. Introduce interesting facts about what images are typically found on U.S. money and what images are found on money around the world. Have the children trace, cut out, and design unique coins and bills. Teachers can incorporate a lesson on how money is designed and the artists that create it. <http://www.usmint.gov/education/sculptor_engravers/?CFID=6319525&CFTOKEN=11328224>

These websites give great examples of money found around the world:

<http://www.banknotes.com/images.htm>

<http://library.thinkquest.org/28718/currencies.htm>

<http://coins.about.com/od/worldcoins/ig/World-Coins-Gallery-Index/>

<http://coins.about.com/library/Coin_Identification/bl_identify_us_coins_using_photos.htm>

Design your own money websites and web games:

<http://www.newmoney.gov/newmoney/dyob/index.html>

**MATH**

The book refers to several math activities relating to coins:

1. Have students bring a picture of an item they would like to purchase and ask them to include the item’s selling price. Have the students calculate how many coins it would take to purchase this item. Allow them to choose their favorite coin and calculate it according to the value of the coin they choose or ask them to calculate how many coins it would cost according to each individual coin (i.e. how many pennies, dimes, quarter, nickels, etc.)
2. Give each student an assortment of coins and have them sort the coins according to size or color. Have sort coins in piles which equal to an amount of one dollar.
3. Have students line coins up in size order and make a rubbing of the coin on a plain sheet of paper. Discuss how size does not determine the smaller or larger value of the coin itself.

The U.S. Mint website has many other lesson plans that deal with money:

<http://www.usmint.gov/kids/teachers/lessonPlans/viewLP.cfm?lessonPlanId=91>

Online Currency Conversion Calculator shows kids what a U.S. dollar is worth in other parts of the world:

<http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

Money math worksheets and lesson plans:

<http://www.math-drills.com/money.shtml>

<http://www.math-aids.com/Money/>

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

1. How is money made? What people are pictured on different currency and why? Teachers can incorporate a virtual tour of the U.S. Mint and the process of how coins are made.

<http://www.usmint.gov/mint_tours/?action=vtShell>

1. Discuss different currencies of the world and what they look like. This web page gives a list of different countries and the type of currency they use:

<http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/infopage/currency.htm>

1. Discuss the history of money and how it has evolved over the years. Nova/PBS history of money timeline for kids:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/ancient/history-money.html>

1. The United States Mint has a searchable database of lesson plans listed according to subject and grade level.

<http://www.usmint.gov/kids/teachers/lessonPlans/subject/>

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Where does money come from?
2. What are different ways you can get/earn money?
3. What are the different things we spend money on?
4. Why would people have used animals, salt, or beads as money in the past?
5. What characteristics make US Money unique?
6. Where is money created?

**WEB SITES**

Library of Congress researchers – United States Money:

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/business/money/money_index.html>

The United States Mint:

<http://www.usmint.gov/>

United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing:

<http://www.moneyfactory.gov/uscurrency/theproductionprocess.html>

Coin Collectors Society:

<http://coins.www.collectors-society.com/>

If your students think that American money is complicated for fun you could show this short video: Horrible Histories Tutor Currency: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0Qv9uSNWCk>.

**OTHER RELATED BOOKS:**

Adams, Barbara Johnston. *The Go-Around Dollar.* New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992. Print.

Adler, David A. *Money Madness.* New York: Holiday House, 2010. Print.

Cribb, Joe. *DK Eyewitness Books: Money*. New York: DK Publishing, 2005. Print.

Maestro, Betsy. *The Story of Money.* New York: Harper Collins, 1995. Print.

Mollel, Tololwa. *My Rows and Piles of Coins.* Boston: Clarion Books, 1999. Print.