Penny Rubbing

Old coins give archaeologists clues about ancient civilizations and famous people at different times in history. What will our coins tell future scientists about us? Let’s make a coin rubbing and find out.

What You’ll Need

• One penny
• One nickel
• One dime
• One quarter
• Coins from other countries, if you have them
• Pencil
• Thin white paper

What To Do

1. Lay the penny, nickel, dime and quarter face up on a table or desk.

2. Put a piece of thin white paper over them.

3. Take a pencil and rub the side of the sharpened tip back and forth over each coin, until you can see the imprint. How are they the same? How are they different? What can you learn about a country and its people from its coins?

DID YOU KNOW?

• The Lincoln penny was first minted (made) in 1909.

• Benjamin Franklin suggested the design for the first penny.