

COMMON CENTS

Did you know that the dollar bill is printed on cotton, not regular paper? Or that piggy banks have nothing to do with pigs? These fun sites will teach you lots of interesting things about money. You can learn how money is made at the US mint, find out how to start a coin collection, and practice making change. You'll even get a few tips on how to be a saver, not a spender!

☞ Coin collecting is cool! Visit the Smithsonian's site on kids and collecting to see some rare coins. Learn how to start and care for your own collection. <http://kids.si.edu/collecting/blank.html>

☞ Ever wonder how coins are made? At the U.S. Mint web site, you can take a step-by-step tour of the minting process. At one point, new coins are actually put inside a washer and dryer to make them clean and shiny! <http://www.usmint.gov/kids>

☞ Meet Dollar Bill, Mr. Money and a whole bunch of other cartoon characters who will help you learn all about money, banks, saving and more. Each character takes you on an adventure, and when you finish, you can take their money quiz to see how much you've learned. http://www.kidsbank.com/index_3.asp

☞ Did you know that people used to save their money in kitchen jars made out of a clay called pygg? That's how the idea of piggy banks came into being. You can learn a lot of neat money trivia at this ThinkQuest site. <http://library.thinkquest.org/J003358F/trivia.html>

☞ Learning how to make change can be tricky. Play this fun piggy bank game, and you'll soon become an expert. <http://www.funbrain.com/cashreg/>

☞ Get up close and personal with a hundred dollar bill at this PBS site. Click on any part of the bill to learn more, like what the serial numbers are for and how the U.S. Mint uses special printing techniques to make it hard for people to make counterfeit, or fake, money. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/moolah/anatomy.html>

by Ann Orr

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