

Collecting Coins

Harold had never really thought about money as anything other than paper and metal that bought stuff. Then, as he sat waiting for his mother to pick him up one day, he absently looked over the coins in his pocket. They were actually kind of cool. There was so much detail!

There were dates on the coins, and famous people's faces. Then the values were shown with words and numbers. Often, coins had some sort of engraving and some slogans. Some coins had animals, places, or famous buildings on them. It really depended on what coin you looked at.

Those few moments of looking at some pennies and quarters were enough to get Harold hooked. He wanted to know more about coins; he wanted to collect them. He started with a small box in his dresser, but that quickly became too small for all the different pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, half-dollars, and dollar coins he collected.

The next step was international coins. It was cool to see coins from other countries. They didn't always use dollars, either. Some countries used Pounds, Francs, Yen, Won, or Euros. It seemed that every country had another name for its money. They also had different faces, shapes, and colors on their coins. Harold really liked the two color coins from places like Canada and Hong Kong.

After that, Harold started trading coins online and building up his collection. When his family and friends traveled, he asked them to bring back a pocket of small coins. He started getting tons of money that way, and some of them were worth a lot, because they were rare, especially old coins. His grandparents even had a few old coins they shared with him on his birthdays.

It was quite a hobby, collecting coins. Some people collected stamps, dolls, or baseball cards, but he liked coins. Even the smell of all that metal made him smile. He was really into coins! The good thing about it, too, was that you could spend it if you really wanted to, but they were fun to look at, as well.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is Harold's hobby?
 - A. collecting butterflies
 - B. playing sports
 - C. painting
 - D. collecting coins
2. How did Harold get into the hobby?
 - A. He was bored and looked at the coins in his pockets.
 - B. He was given a special coin by his dad.
 - C. He found his lucky penny.
 - D. His friends got him into it.
3. Which of these is a kind of money NOT mentioned in the story?
 - A. Dollars
 - B. Lira
 - C. Yen
 - D. Won
4. Harold really liked what kinds of coins from Canada and Hong Kong?
 - A. hexagonal coins
 - B. sandwich coins
 - C. copper pennies
 - D. two color coins
5. Which of these is not something the story says you might find on coins?
 - A. faces
 - B. numbers
 - C. cartoons
 - D. dates

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