



THE
ROYAL
MINT®

THE ORIGINAL MAKER



Geography

Coins in the Classroom

royalmint.com/mintlings

Where is The Royal Mint?



The Royal Mint is located near Cardiff in South Wales.



The Royal Mint Today

The modern mint supplies coins and blanks to over 60 countries from its factory in Llantrisant.



Get a bird's-eye view by searching for 'The Royal Mint, Pontyclun'.

[Google maps](#)

UK Coins

United Kingdom coins do not bear the name of the country but always include the monarch's effigy. The current coins in circulation, those of Her Majesty The Queen, include the Latin inscription ELIZABETH II DEI GRATIA REGINA FIDEI DEFENSOR. This translates as 'Elizabeth II, by the grace of God, Queen and Defender of the Faith'. The Latin is usually abbreviated to save space.



The Euro

Euro coins first came into use in 2002 and there are eight different circulating denominations, ranging from one cent to two euros. They have a common reverse, portraying a map of Europe, but each country in the eurozone has its own design on the obverse (front).

The obverse design varies from state to state, with each member allowed to choose its own design. In monarchies, the national side usually features a portrait of the country's monarch whilst republics (countries without a king or queen) tend to feature national monuments, symbols, or other stylised designs.

The obverse must include twelve stars, the engraver's initials, and the year of issue. New issues must also include the name of the issuing country – though this rule is broken by Germany and Greece.



Coins from the USA

Coins from the United States of America all bear the words UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN GOD WE TRUST and E PLURIBUS UNUM (One from Many). They also have the value of the coin written in words on the obverse side.



South Africa

Coins from South Africa include the words SOUTH AFRICA in the eleven official languages of the country. The language used rotates year by year.



Australia

The currency in Australia is the Australian dollar. The British monarch is still the country's head of state and so the portrait of The Queen features on the front of all Australian coins. The reverse designs on the coins show some of the country's distinctive animals, except on the 50 cent coin that features the Australian coat of arms.



Bahamas

The Bahamas used British coins up until 1966. The currency used is now the dollar. Coins from the Bahamas have images of local flora and fauna on their reverses. A portrait of The Queen is on the front.



Belize

Before it changed its name in 1973, Belize was known as British Honduras, a former British colony. Belize is bordered by Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, and is the only country in the region where English is the official language. Apart from changing the name, coins from Belize have kept pretty much the same design for over 100 years.



Canada

The designs on some Canadian coins date back to 1937 when it was decided to choose subjects appropriate to Canada. There is the maple leaf, the beaver, a fishing schooner (type of boat), a caribou and the arms of Canada.



Cook Islands

In 1965 the Cook Islands became self-governing. Before this, they had been a territory of New Zealand, and before that a British protectorate. In 1972 a new national coinage was made featuring Queen Elizabeth II on the front and images of local flora and fauna on the reverse.



Egypt

Egypt has been a republic since 1953, before which it had a long and varied history. New coins were introduced shortly after it became a republic and designs include a sphinx, an eagle, pyramids and a tughra. Coins are little used in Egypt with people preferring to use bank notes in these small amounts instead.



Eire (Ireland)

When Ireland adopted decimal currency in 1971 (the same time as the UK) many of the old Irish coin designs were kept. These included an Irish harp along with a variety of animals. Later on, when Ireland adopted the euro in 2002, the harp design was kept as a symbol of Irish history.



Ethiopia

The designs on Ethiopian coins date from the revolution of 1974. The leader was deposed and Ethiopia became a socialist republic. The coins feature a lion's head on the front and people or animals on the back.



Falkland Islands

British currency has been used in the Falklands since 1833. In 1974 a new coinage was produced especially for the islands, featuring the royal portrait and local animals.



Fiji

In the past, British and Australian coins have been used in Fiji. When it was granted independence from Britain in 1970, Fiji chose to adopt the decimal system of the dollar.



Gambia

In 1970, Gambia became a republic and in 1971, it issued new coins with the portrait of its president on the obverse. The new coins had denominations written in Arabic and in English. These were 1, 5, 10, 25 and 50 bututs and 1 dalasi (worth 100 bututs). The designs from earlier coins were reused for the reverse, with a ship, guinea fowl, a palm tree, a bull and a crocodile.



Guernsey

Since Britain introduced decimal coins in 1971, Guernsey has fallen in line with British denominations. The materials used to make Guernsey coins are the same as those used in British coins so they look very similar, although the reverse designs are different. For example, there is a crab on the Guernsey one penny and the Guernsey cow on the two pence.



Fact File

Guyana

The coast of Guyana was first sighted by Christopher Columbus in 1498. Guyana was granted independence from Britain in 1966 and since then has used a decimal system of dollars and cents. All coins have the arms of Guyana on the obverse and the reverse designs feature the local wildlife.



Hong Kong

Since 1993, coins in Hong Kong have featured a bauhinia flower. The Hong Kong dollar is divided into the denominations of 10, 20 and 50 cents. Coins worth 1, 2, 5 and 10 dollars are also produced.



Iceland

The currency in Iceland is the krona, which means crown. There are five denominations, and each has a different sea creature on the reverse. These include the Atlantic cod, the short-beaked common dolphin, the capelin, the shore crab and the lumpfish.



India

In India the currency is the rupee, which is divided into 100 paise. Since 1992, India has been replacing some of its banknotes with coins, including the 2, 5 and 10 rupee notes.



Jamaica

Jamaica uses its own dollar, which has the arms of Jamaica on the front and local flora and fauna on the back.



Jersey

Jersey, like Guernsey, uses the pound as its currency but produces its own coins. Jersey coins feature Jersey landmarks, including the dolmen at Faldouet.



Fact File

Jordan

Jordanian currency works on a decimalised version of the Arabic system. 1,000 fils = 100 qirsh (or piastre) = 10 dirham = 1 dinar.



New Zealand

By 2006 New Zealand had demonetised (stopped using) 1, 2 and 5 cent coins. The government decided that it was costing too much to make coins that had very little value. They also decided to make the 10, 20 and 50 cent coins smaller because change was difficult to carry in large quantities – the 50 cent coin was 3.2cm in diameter.



Papua New Guinea

The currency in Papua New Guinea is the kina. 1 kina is a round coin with a hole in the centre. The smaller denominations known as toea are struck with the values 5, 10 and 50. 50 toea coins are only produced as commemoratives.



Seychelles

The currency in the Seychelles is the rupee. Since 1982 the Seychelles have used round coins with the national arms on the obverse (front) and local wildlife on the reverse (back).



Sri Lanka

Each of Sri Lanka's coins bears the Armorial Ensign on the front instead of the portrait of a monarch. There are 6 coins in use: 25 and 50 cents, and 1, 2, 5 and 10 rupees.



St Helena

Since 1984 St Helena has used British coins. The reverse designs have been used to show their local wildlife, including Jonathan the giant tortoise.



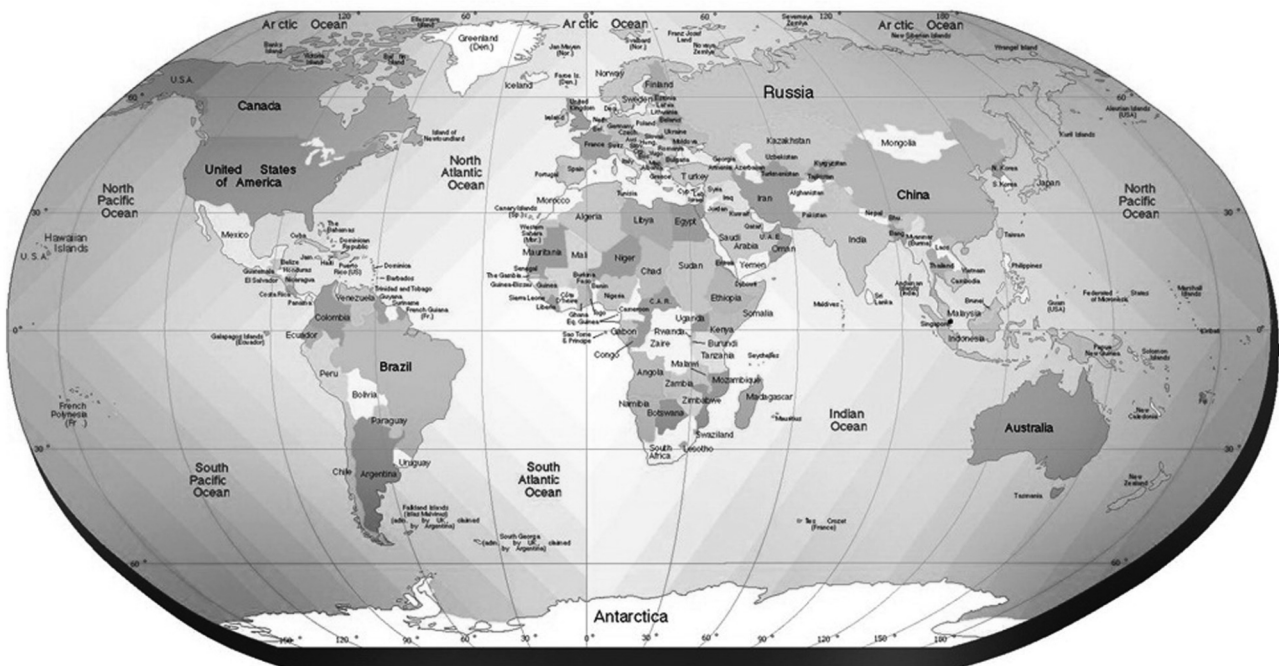
Thailand

In 2008 Thailand decided to change the material used in their coins to make production cheaper. The currency of Thailand is the baht and the smaller denominations are called satang. The coins bear the image of the Thai king, King Bhumibol Adulyadej. At the time of his death he was the longest reigning monarch in the world.



Uganda

Uganda uses the shilling as its currency. Currently in use are the 50, 100, 200 and 500 shilling coins, which were introduced in 1998. Ugandan currency is very stable. US dollars, pound sterling and the euro are also used within the country.



Coins from Around the World

Each of the coins below is from a different country. Your task is to find these countries on your world map. You must then cut out the coins and stick them onto the map in the right place.



Australia



Cook Islands



Ireland



Ethiopia



Falkland Islands



India



Jamaica



South Africa



Fiji



Papua New Guinea

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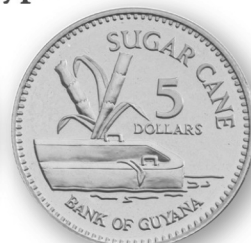
Canada



Egypt



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Guyana



Jordan



Iceland



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USA



Sri Lanka



Guernsey



Seychelles



Hong Kong



St Helena and the Island of Ascension



Gambia



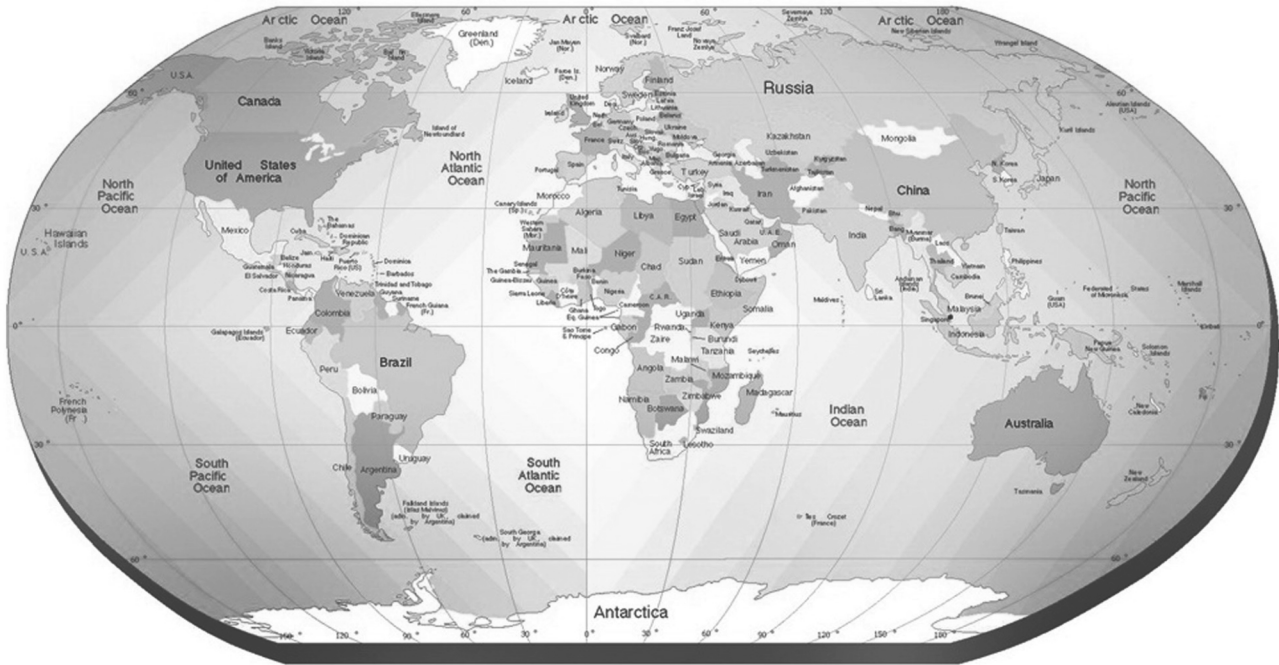
Uganda



Papua New Guinea



Thailand



Now you will investigate one of the countries you have discovered and create a **geography project**.

You will need to use your **research skills** and look at books and the internet to find the information you will need.

Use the **project questions** on the next slide to help you with your work. Don't forget to include any other interesting information too!

You should include as much information about the country as you can, and illustrate your project with **pictures or drawings**.

Questions

In addition to your own research, in your project you should answer the following questions:

Part 1

1. What is the country called?

2. Where is the country? (You should describe where it is and draw or stick in a picture.)

3. What currency does the country use? (Pounds, dollars and euros are examples of currencies.)

4. What do their coins look like? (Describe, copy, or cut out and stick the image you have seen.)

5. Are the coins different or similar to UK coins? How?

In addition to your own research, in your project you should answer the following questions:

Part 1

6. What symbols, writing or pictures are on the coins that tell you where they are from? Why do you think they have been used?

7. What do you think the coin designs are trying to tell us about the country?

Part 2

1. What is the exchange rate between the UK and the country you are studying?
(How much money would you get in return for £1?)

2. What could you buy in the country you are studying with the equivalent of £1?

Questions

In addition to your own research, in your project you should answer the following questions.

Part 2

3. Is this similar to what you could get for £1 in the UK? Could you buy more or less?

4. How much do people get paid in the country you are studying? (Find some examples.)

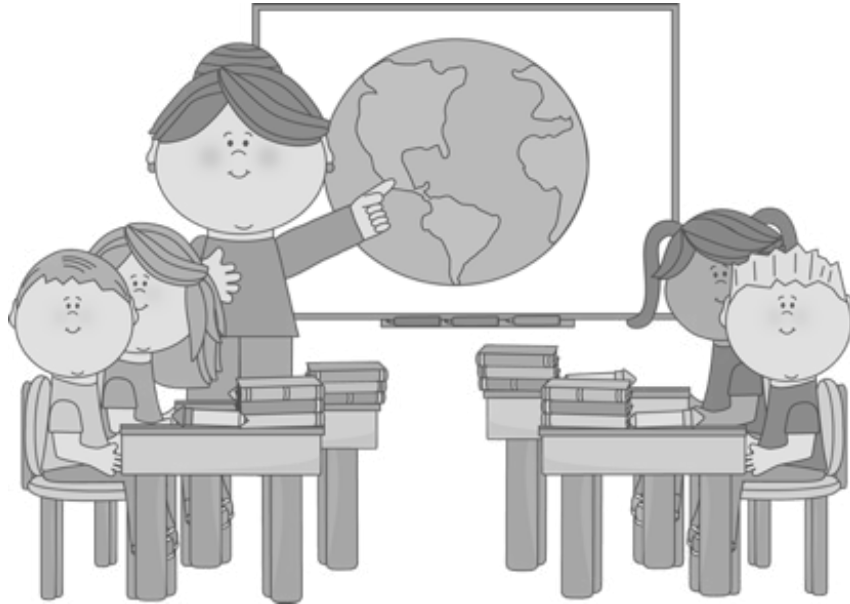
5. Is it a rich country or a poor country? How can you tell?

6. How many people live in the country? (This is called the population.)

7. What are its main industries (e.g. making cars, selling sugar, making clothes)?

You should also include any other interesting information you find about the geography or history of the country you are researching.

Tell Your Group!



When you have finished your project it's time to tell the rest of your group what you have found out.

Choose **five** interesting facts from your project. Try and choose **three** from the project questions and **two** other pieces of information you have found out.

When you have chosen your favourites, create a PowerPoint slide so that you can show the rest of your group.

The content in this pack was developed by the team at The Royal Mint Museum. For more information on these resources, including additional teaching materials and in-depth teachers' notes, please visit royalmintmuseum.org.uk/learning

For a more immersive learning experience, online education sessions with The Royal Mint Museum are available upon request. Complete the online form at royalmintmuseum.org.uk/learning to request a booking and we will be in touch to confirm the details.



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