

Mintlings
by THE ROYAL MINT

The 2023 Definitive
UK Coin Collection

Activity
Pack



What are definitive coins?

In the United Kingdom, we use eight different coin denominations (values) in our currency – £2, £1, 50p, 20p, 10p, 5p, 2p and 1p. The Royal Mint makes the UK's official coins and each year we release definitive coin sets for people to buy.

People enjoy collecting definitive coins as they document a moment in history and can be treasured and enjoyed for many years to come.



The designs used on definitive coins appear on circulating coins too. Circulating coins are the coins 'in use' or in circulation that we use to pay for things every day and the coins that end up in your piggy bank.

What are the two sides of a coin called?

Each side of a coin has its own name – an obverse and a reverse. The obverse usually shows the portrait of the reigning king or queen, which is why that side of the coin is often referred to as 'heads'. The reverse is the 'tails' side of the coin, which usually shows designs along with the coin's value.

Obverse or 'heads'



Reverse or 'tails'





Why do we have a new set of definitive coins for 2023?

The new 2023 UK definitive coins are the first set of coins of His Majesty King Charles III's reign. To celebrate The King's reign, and mark the year of his coronation, we have introduced eight new reverse designs to the coins. Personally approved by His Majesty, the new designs feature British wildlife and were inspired by The King's passion for nature.

His Majesty King Charles III



Sketches of reverse designs



Why do we have special marks on coins?

A privy mark is a small symbol or mark that sometimes appears on coins honouring special or historic occasions, such as coronations and jubilees. Some of the 2023 definitive UK coins feature a special privy mark that takes the form of a Tudor Crown. Other marks known as 'mint marks' can also help identify where and when a coin was made.

Tudor Crown privy mark



His Majesty King Charles III's coronation



Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee



Definitive 2023 1p obverse



Going Wild

The 2023 definitive UK coins feature eight new designs that are inspired by British wildlife. Meet the animals and plants that appear on our new coins.



The largest of the UK's definitive coins features flowers and plants that represent the four countries of the United Kingdom – a rose for England, a daffodil for Wales, a thistle for Scotland and a shamrock for Northern Ireland.



There are more than 250 different species of bee living in the UK, including the bumblebee, honey bee and mining bee, and now they are creating a buzz on our new £1 coin. These busy insects play a very important role in pollinating many plants and fruiting trees, which not only provide food for humans but also homes for wildlife.



Leaping on to our new 50p coin is the Atlantic salmon. These large fish can be found in very clean rivers in Scotland and Wales along with those in North and South West England. Wild populations of Atlantic salmon are low due to factors like river pollution, habitat loss, river heating – due to a lack of tree cover and climate change – and overfishing.



With their unmistakable colourful bills and distinctive black and white feathers, puffins are one of Britain's most popular seabirds. Around 10% of the worldwide puffin population breeds along the UK coastline. Classified as a Red List species, puffins are endangered and at risk of extinction, so action is needed to protect their nesting sites and food supplies.



The capercaillie is a huge woodland grouse that can grow up to 87cm long and has an impressive wingspan of up to 125cm. They are found in Scottish native pinewood and feed on berries, shoots and stems. Despite their size, they are very shy and difficult to find. Unfortunately, the number of capercaillies has reduced dramatically in recent years and they are in danger of becoming extinct.

Supporting more life than any other native tree species in the UK, the oak tree is a British wildlife hero. They host hundreds of insects, which are an important food source for birds, and provide acorns for mammals such as squirrels and badgers to feed on.

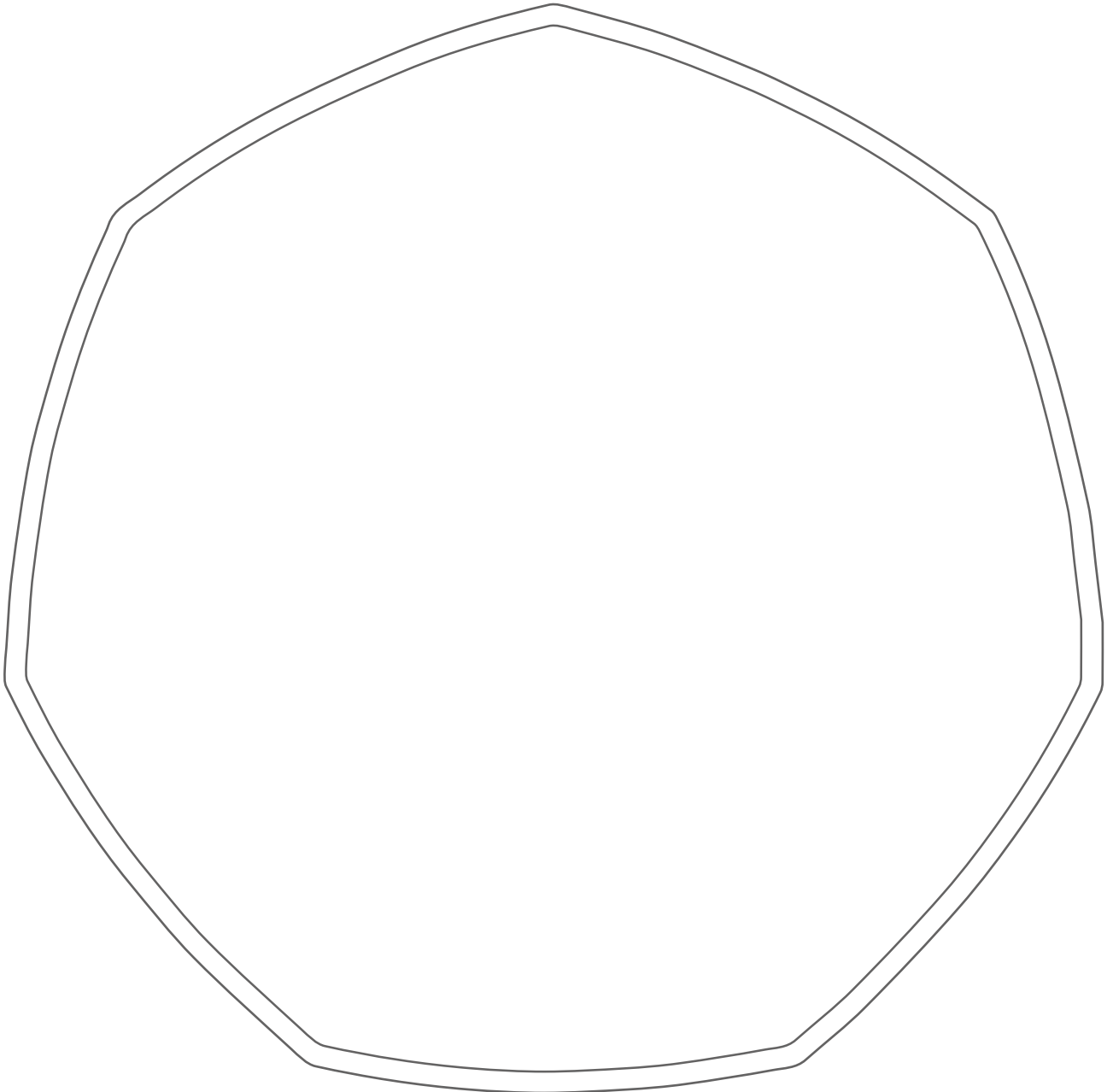


The red squirrel's beautiful orange-red fur makes it the perfect creature to feature on our new 2p coin. The red squirrel lives in woodland, with 75% of its UK population found in areas of Scotland. It can also be found in Northern Ireland, the Isle of Wight, Brownsea Island, Anglesey, Cumbria, Kielder Forest and Formby.

Our smallest denomination features an adorable little mammal, the hazel dormouse. Mostly found in southern England, in places such as Sussex, Devon and Kent, the hazel dormouse population in the UK has halved since 2007. However, more than 1,000 have been reintroduced in 13 different counties across the country in the hope that they can once again thrive in the wild.

Design Your Own Definitive Coin

The 2023 definitive UK coin collection features eight new reverse designs that include wildlife found in Britain. Which animal, tree or plant would you like to see on a coin? Get creative and draw your own coin design inspired by nature.





Definitive Word Search



Can you find these hidden words in our word search?



V O A K S Q U I R R E L S R P F Z W
 I V R B Q S C I G X L L L U W U S O
 N L G E Z K Z H I J U T J H X Z L Q
 Z S U Q S H Y B O D C X D W H Y K G
 N E A W L W I E K A Y H J Y T Q M H
 A D F L G Y K R Y P G E O W Y A J Z
 T J Y D M P V B K G W Z X T C Y B X
 U D O R M O U S E R S K S D S L E X
 R C C A K X N L S X D N D H J X E Y
 E V O P E M V P Z Q I E Z S U G X K
 T X O T J W R P U F F I N A Y D M G
 F H O C O C P O G R O U S E J N C T



NATURE

BEE

SALMON

PUFFIN

DORMOUSE

SQUIRREL

OAK

GROUSE



Count the Coins

Can you add the value of the coins together and write the total amount?



1.



Answer:

2.



Answer:

3.



Answer:

4.



Answer:

5.



Answer:

6.



Answer:

Answers: 1. £2 + £2 + 20p = 80p,
3. 10p + 2p + 1p = 13p, 4. £1 + 50p + 20p = £1.70,
5. 20p + 10p + 5p = 35p, 6. £2 + £1 + 50p + 2p = £3.52.



Mintlings

by THE ROYAL MINT



Discover more Mintlings

There's a whole host of activities
and coin-related fun!

royalmint.com/mintlings

