

THE PERIODIC TABLE OF THE PRESIDENTS™

Money Presidents

Introduction:

Money fascinates people of all ages. Its portraits, symbols, and words tell a story of our nation's past. For many years, Lady Liberty was the most common icon on currency. Today, it is the presidents that dominate our money.

At times a fallen president is honored on currency, such as FDR, JFK, and Eisenhower. Perhaps a president like Andrew Jackson would recoil at his portrait on a \$20 bill. Lately, women have re-established their place on our money: Susan B. Anthony, Sacagawea, and in the near future, Harriet Tubman. The images on our money highlight the icons that have found a permanent place in our country's history.

Money presidents can be collected as artwork, passed on in collections, or handed over a counter to buy a soda at the store. We use them everyday. These are the presidents on our money.

Questions:

1. Paper money is not actually made of paper. What is the composition of paper money?
2. Which presidents appear on paper money that is currently made?
3. Which presidents appear on both coins and paper money?
4. Why might Andrew Jackson be against his placement on the \$20 bill?
5. Which paper currency costs the most to produce? Why might that be?
6. Who was the first president to appear on a coin?
7. What symbol has appeared on almost every form of currency? Her earliest appearance was in 1793.
8. What is the average lifespan for coins?
9. What is the biggest dollar bill ever produced? Who is on it?
10. Which president do you think is missing from our currency? Explain why.

Answer Key

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Questions:

1. Paper money is not actually made of paper. What is the composition of paper money?

75% cotton, 25% linen

2. Which presidents appear on paper money that is currently made?

Jackson, Grant, Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln

3. Which presidents appear on both coins and paper money?

Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln

4. Why might Andrew Jackson be against his placement on the \$20 bill?

He worked against a national bank system

5. Which paper currency costs the most to produce? Why might that be?

The \$50 bill; security measures are needed within the bill to stop counterfeiting

6. Who was the first president to appear on a coin?

Abraham Lincoln

7. What symbol has appeared on almost every form of currency? Her earliest appearance was in 1793.

Lady Liberty

8. What is the average lifespan for coins?

25 years

9. What is the biggest dollar bill ever produced? Who is on it?

\$100,000; Woodrow Wilson

10. Which president do you think is missing from our currency? Explain why.

Answers will vary