

Artifact #15 - Bag of Money

Artifacts tell a story. The coins that countries use are a useful artifact in gathering information about the society of that country.

Objective: The student will be able to list the attributes of a coin and make inferences about the society based on those attributes.

Lesson: Distribute a coin per person (or a group of coins to a group of students).

Use handout # 2.

Ask the students to make a list of the attributes of the coin.

When that is complete - have the student describe what each attribute means about the society in which the coin was used.

See table below for sample ideas.

Coin's attribute	Inference
It's made of metal.	The country has access to and uses metals
Different metals	Has access to and uses different metals
It is uniformly round.	There are machines that can mass produce.
Round	The country knows shapes
Has letters, words	The country has an alphabet and language
Has numbers	The country has a number system
Has coin's value	The coins each represent a different value.
Photos	The country has an engraver, artist, people
Buildings	The country has buildings, can build, values the building
Birds / trees etc	The country values these things
Has date	The country uses dates, has a calendar
In God we Trust	This country has religion