Instructions

Coins are everywhere! You might have a few in your pocket. You might see one on the sidewalk, or you might discover a few buried between couch cushions. In the United States, there are several kinds of coins you might see on a normal day. Each coin has a front side (which is technically called the "obverse," but we normally just call it "front" or "heads"). There is also a back side (which is the "reverse," but we normally just say "back" or "tails").

If you're pretty new to learning about coins, just work on learning what the front and back of each coin looks like. If you've learned some counting and addition already, make sure you read about how much each coin is worth and how you can add coins together to make certain amounts of money.

If you go shopping, it's important to know how much something costs that you want to buy. In this book, each item has an imaginary cost. In real life, prices change a lot because of many things, so trying to say how much something really costs wouldn't make sense for our project.

Each price is written with a dollar sign ($) followed by either the number of dollars and a decimal point, or simply a decimal point after the dollar sign to show that the price is less than one dollar. The decimal point is followed by two numbers showing the amount of cents. For anything less than one dollar, the amount could be written as the number of cents followed by a cents sign (¢). However, for our project, the dollar sign and decimal are used throughout the book. Whenever the number of cents is less than ten, the two digits for the cents are written with a zero after the decimal point followed by the number of cents (as in $.05 or five cents).

After the price is shown, the way we are making that amount is explained. There are many ways to make $.50 using coins. For example, $.50 can be made using one half-dollar. It can also be made using two quarters, or it can be made using one quarter, two dimes, and a nickel. It can also be made using five dimes, or it can be made using ten nickels. And those are just a few of the ways!

The color-by-coin pages show the item and the code you need to follow to color the picture. You might need to find the fronts of coins, the backs of coins, or some of both. There is a key below the picture explaining what color to use for each label to complete the picture.

We're going to use half-dollars, quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies. There are two types of some of these coins that people use today. Let's see what we can learn about them!

Explanation of Coins

Kennedy Half-Dollar

The John F. Kennedy half-dollar was first minted in 1964 and has been used ever since. The front and back have remained the same since then except for 1975 and 1976 when a special bicentennial half-dollar was minted for the country's 200th birthday. The special bicentennial coins are not shown in this book.

Washington Quarter

The Washington quarter was first minted in 1932. The front shows the head of George Washington, and the back shows an eagle. This design remained the same until 1999 when the eagle on the back was replaced with designs that represented each of the 50 states. In 2010, quarters with pictures from some of the country's parks and historical sites were minted. Both the quarter with the eagle on the back and a quarter with one of the parks are used in this book.

Roosevelt Dime

The Roosevelt dime was first issued in 1946. It has a picture of President Franklin D. Roosevelt on the front of the coin and a design showing a torch, olive branch, and oak branch on the back. The designs on the back represent liberty, peace, and strength. The Roosevelt dime is still used today and is the only dime used in this book.

Jefferson Nickel

The nickel has a picture of Thomas Jefferson on the front and a picture of Monticello (Jefferson's home in Virginia) on the back. This nickel was first minted in 1938. In 2006, the nickel was updated with new pictures of Jefferson and Monticello. Nickels with both of these designs are used in this book.

Lincoln Penny

The Lincoln penny was first issued in 1909, and is still minted today. In 1959, the coin was minted with the Lincoln Memorial design on the back. In 2010, the design on the back of the penny was changed to a Union Shield and is still used today. Both the penny with the Lincoln Memorial and the Union Shield are used in this book.

Chart of Older Designs

Coins Used on Pages 6-18

Coin	Front	Back
Kennedy Half-Dollar		
Washington Quarter		
Roosevelt Dime		
Jefferson Nickel		
Lincoln Penny		

These coins are also used on pages 31-37 where the activities include a combination of older and newer designs.

Chart of Newer Designs

Coins Used on Pages 19-30

Coin	Front	Back
Kennedy Half-Dollar		
Washington Quarter		
Roosevelt Dime		
Jefferson Nickel		
Lincoln Penny		

These coins are also used on pages 31-37 where the activities include a combination of older and newer designs.

Paintbrush

A paintbrush is a handy thing to have around. There are lots of art projects you can do using a paintbrush.

The imaginary cost for this paintbrush is going to be seventy-five cents ($.75).

There are many ways to make $.75 using the coins pictured in this book. We are going to use quarters, dimes, and nickels to make $.75 for the paintbrush. We will use 2 quarters, 2 dimes, and 1 nickel. Look at how this adds up to $.75.

One quarter equals twenty-five cents ($.25). Since there are two of them, they equal:

$$\$.25 + \$.25 = \$.50$$

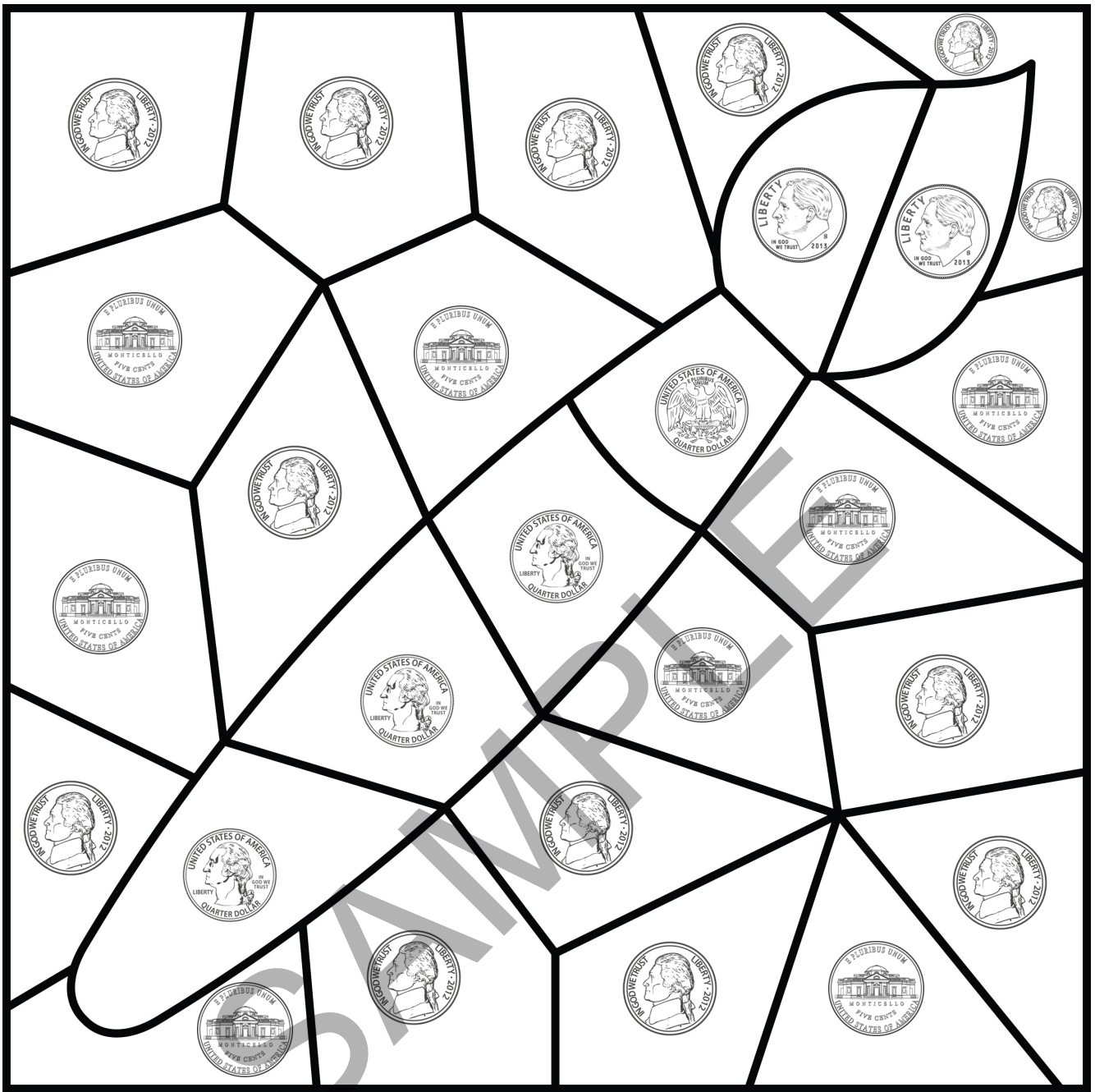Next, there are two dimes. One dime equals ten cents ($.10). Two of them equal:

$$\$.10 + \$.10 = \$.20$$

Last, there is one nickel. One nickel equals five cents ($.05).

$$\$.05$$

Add them together and you get:

Quarters	$.25 + $.25 = $.50
Dimes:	$.10 + $.10 = $.20
Nickels:	$.05 = $.05
Total:	$.75

Color the spaces with the front of a quarter brown.

Color the spaces with the back of a quarter yellow.

Color the spaces with the front of a dime tan.

Color the spaces with the front of a nickel pink.

Color the spaces with the back of a nickel pink.