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Artist's Challenge Coins (ACCs)

To trade, share, or keep — these coins carry a personalized message and mini artwork

Challenge Coins are specially designed and minted for service personnel to recognize an achievement, enhance morale, or to signify membership in (or experience on) a particular mission. The oldest known Challenge Coins were minted when the Green Berets were formed, and they became a tradition for special forces units during the Vietnam War. Gaining popularity during Operation Desert Storm, each branch of the U.S. military now has Challenge Coins, as well as firefighters, police officers, fraternal organizations, athletic groups, and others. The official portrait of President Bill Clinton on display in the White House shows in the background the collection that is on display in the Oval Office.

A personal Artist's Challenge Coin (ACC) can be created by students for sharing or collecting. On one side of a coin-shaped wooden disk, the artist makes a small drawing, painting, print, collage, stamp, or photo appliqué. On the reverse, he or she writes a challenge or message that expresses:

- a reminder of a personal goal
- a motto, purpose, or mission statement to share
- a memento of a special relationship or event
- a shared bond as part of a group or experience
- a message of encouragement or a challenge to someone to meet a goal or commitment
- a means of expressing gratitude, recognizing achievements, or honoring an outstanding idea or performance

The Challenge Coins are then traded, given away, or collected. Not just for students to create — teachers, parents, organizations, and groups can use them as awards or incentives.

Coin collections can be made into jewelry, strung together or stored in sleeves.

GRADES K-12 Note: instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

Materials

Woodsies™ Wood Shapes, circles package of 130 (60408-1010); share at least one package among class

Assorted materials for designing coins, including:

- Sargent Art® Metallic Acrylics, 8-oz, assorted colors (00730-)
- Jacquard® Lumiere 3D Dimensional Metallic Paint and Adhesive, assorted colors (00752-)
- Sharpie® Ultra-Fine Point Markers, assorted colors (21315-)
- Blick Studio® Artists' Colored Pencils, assorted (22063-)
- Blick Studio® Acrylics, assorted colors 4-oz (01637-)
- Liquitex® Pouring Medium, 8-oz (02001-1002); share among class

Optional Materials

2-Prong Bail with Loop, 12-pack, Silver (60692-2410) or Gold (60692-4030)

Krylon® Crystal Clear® Acrylic Coating, 6-oz (21703-1006)

Step 1: *Paint, draw, write, print, stamp, or collage a personal piece of art on one side of the coin. Write a message or challenge on the back.*

Step 2: *Seal the artwork with acrylic medium or spray.*

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Process

1. A package of wooden circles contains 1-5/16″ diameter disks (about the size of an Eisenhower dollar coin) and 7/8″ diameter disks (nickel-sized). Both may be used to make ACCs. The package also contains small, 7/16″ disks that are too small for coins and should be set aside for other projects.
2. ACCs may be created in any manner, with any materials that can be used on a small surface. Making them an expression of personal ideas and choices is the important concept — students are using them to share a small part of themselves.

   Here are a few ideas:

— Paint the coin with metallic gold, silver, or copper acrylics.

— Use small brushes to create small paintings in acrylic paint or ink.

— Draw images with fine-point permanent markers or colored pencils.

— Create elegant script lettering with calligraphy markers or dip pens and permanent ink.

— Use dimensional paint to make raised lettering or edges.

— Use an ink pad and small stamps to make designs.

— Incorporate small photos, photocopied images, found illustrations, and computer-generated text.

— Collage decorative paper and words cut from magazines and newspapers.

— Use stickers, decals, or small paper-punched designs.

— Collage small, flat materials such as dried flowers, string, ribbon, bits of lace, and fabrics.

— Use lightweight tooling foil, cut to size, and glue embossed designs to the coins.

3. Since the ACCs will most likely be handled, it is recommend that they be sealed with a protective coating. Permanent media can be sealed with a brush-on clear acrylic medium, such as Liquitex Pouring Medium. Non-permanent media can be sealed with a spray coating, such as Krylon Crystal Clear (be sure to read and follow all label instructions carefully — not suitable for use by children).

Process, continued

Options

— Crimp a jewelry bail at the top of the coin and use it as a charm for a necklace, bracelet, or other jewelry.

— Display an ACC collection by stringing them together with transparent line, or displaying them in coin collector's pages (available at coin-collecting websites).

National Standards for Visual Arts Education

Content Standard #3 — Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas.
K-4 Students select and use subject matter, symbols, and ideas to communicate meaning
5-8 Students use subjects, themes, and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of contexts, values, and aesthetics that communicate intended meaning in artworks
9-12 Students apply subjects, symbols, and ideas in their artworks and use the skills gained to solve problems in daily life

Watch the Lesson at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALGn0ssMkfw&feature=youtu.be