

Replica Ancient Greek Coins (G-COIN)

This collection contains a variety of Ancient Greece replica coins to engage and inspire children's curiosity and questioning about life in Ancient Greece.



Contents: -

Four double-sided coins:

1. Alexander the Great-Athena
2. Apollo-Quadriga
3. Athena-Owl
4. Zeus-Horse and Jockey

(Contents may vary)

Questions you could ask children about the coins

Initial Discussion

- How do archaeologists and historians use coins to learn about the past?
- What do we need to look for when studying coins to find out about the past?

Collect any other questions the children might have about the artefacts and display them as you try to find the answers through your learning sessions.

Other questions to consider:

- Are there any markings or symbols on the coins? What can they tell us?
- Is there a date on the coin? Does it show how much it was worth?
- Is there a picture of a monarch or historical figure on the coin?
- Are there any images on it such as gods, animals or weapons? See if there is an inscription, what does it say?
- What sort of condition is the coin in? Can you tell if it was handmade (hammered) or milled (machine minted), can you see any strike marks?
- What is the coin? What is it made of?

- **What do the coins tell us about ...?** This last question can be returned to at the end of the investigation.

All About the Coins

The standard silver coins were called drachma; one drachm was worth six obols. The larger silver coins were the tetradrachm which were worth more. The Greeks didn't write a value on the coin. The value was determined by the material the coins were made of and by the weight. A gold coin was worth more than a silver coin which was worth more than a bronze one. A heavy coin would buy more than a light one.

The images on coins give us information about Greek life and culture.



This is a replica of a Silver tetradrachm showing Alexander the Great and Athena seated on the reverse.



This coin shows the head of Apollo, one of the twelve gods of Greek religion and is associated with the sun. The reverse of the coin is a victorious Quadriga, or four horse chariot. There are galloping horses and victory hovering above ready to crown the charioteer. The original was a silver tetradrachm.





This coin is a silver tetradrachm which shows the head of Athena on one side and her owl on the other side. The three letters by the side of the owl show the origin as Athens and these types of coins were referred to as 'owls'.



This coin shows Zeus (father of the gods) and on the reverse is a boy jockey carrying a palm of victory (Phillip II the king of Macedon had a horse that had been successful in the Olympic Games in 356).



For ideas and inspiration on ways of using the artefacts see our Learning with Artefacts free download.

Reference Websites:

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/learn/schools/ages-7-11/ancient-greece>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/greeks/>