

Printable coins

If you can't get your hands on each physical coin, you can print and cut out these to use in the activity.



Royal Shield design





Fun facts

- A 2p coin weighs twice as much as a 1p coin
- A 10p coin weighs twice as much as a 5p coin. Why do you think that is?
- The 20p and 50p coins have 7 sides – called a heptagon – but you can still make them roll. This is because of the curved edges, and because the distance between the opposite sides is always the same. This shape is called the 'equilateral curve heptagon', and Britain was the first country in the world to have a coin shaped like this.



Images: 2009 UK Royal Shield coins by Timgp
(<https://www.flickr.com/photos/timdp/3220583241/>)

The £1 coin

What do you think this image on the £1 represents?

Here we see the:

- Yorkshire Rose (England);
 - the Leek (Wales);
 - the Thistle (Scotland);
 - and the Shamrock (Ireland)
- emerging from the Royal Coronet representing the different Nations in the UK.

Did you know this was designed by 15-year-old David Pearce from Walsall? He beat 6,000 entries, in a competition set by the Royal Mint to design something that symbolises Britain.

By PPP - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=58358552>



The £2 coin

The £2 coin was introduced in 1998, and was designed by Bruce Rushin, an art teacher from Norfolk who entered (and won) the competition to design the coin – look closely – can you find his initials in the design? There are concentric circles which depict the Iron Age (In the centre), the Industrial Age (represented by the cogs), the Electronic Age (with the computer graphics) and final the Internet Age (with the lines representing digital connection).

On the edge is a quote by Isaac Newton, Standing On the Shoulders of Giants, which comes from his longer phrase "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants", which describes his work as being built on the knowledge of those that had gone before him. Why do you think this is connected to the design?

Image: A British 2 Pound Coin by Philippa Willitts
(<https://www.flickr.com/photos/hippie/2407901915>)

