

Penniless!



The United States has stopped producing pennies.

LEXILE: 1070L

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Production, Distribution, and Consumption

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6–8.1, RI.6–8.3, RI.6–8.6, SL.6–8.4

ENGAGE THE READER

Get ready for this lesson by creating a winter market in your classroom. Set up booths selling such things as books, school supplies, and snacks. Price these items with an amount that ends in 99¢ (e.g., \$1.99, \$5.99). Assign several students to be vendors, and provide them with change, including a limited number of pennies (four or five). The rest of the students will be shoppers. Give them \$20 to spend at the shops. Note what vendors do when they run out of change. Don't provide guidance. Then have students read "Penniless!"

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- Why are pennies no longer being produced? What might be the impact of this?
- When was the last time you used a penny? Does this affect your opinion about the discontinuation of pennies?
- Do you think this event is newsworthy? Explain.

EXTEND LEARNING

After reading, have a discussion about what vendors and shoppers did when there were no more pennies to give as change. Did vendors offer more change? Did they ask a neighboring vendor? Did shoppers offer to accept less change? Talk about why businesses would like guidance from the government, and what students think good guidance would be. Then take a class poll to see who thinks discontinuing the penny is a good idea.

Point out that there will still be limited batches of pennies made for collectors. Have students consider what occasions these pennies might be minted for, and what design they might feature. Have students research the history of pennies to learn about how they changed over time. Then they can design their own collector penny. They should write a paragraph or two explaining their design's meaning and why it would appeal to collectors.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 2 of this guide.
To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

- 1. C** (RI.3) **2. D** (RI.4) **3. C** (RI.8) **4. B** (RI.1) **5. A** (RI.8)
6. A (RI.5) **7. Answers will vary.** (W.1)

Name _____ Date _____

Use this week's cover story—"Penniless!"—to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, you may use the back of this page.

<p>1. Why is the U.S. discontinuing the production of pennies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. People don't use them anymore. B. Pennies are made of rare metal. C. Pennies cost much more to make than they are worth. D. President Donald Trump made it a law. 	<p>4. What concern do businesses have about the penny being discontinued?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Not having pennies will be bad luck. B. They'll need advice for handling cash transactions. C. They'll lose money when rounding up to 5¢. D. It's very wasteful to stop using pennies.
<p>2. In the second paragraph, what does it mean that "the U.S. is officially on its way to becoming penniless"?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The U.S. is running out of money. B. The U.S. will no longer be using cash. C. The U.S. is making a new 1¢ coin. D. The U.S. will not be making new pennies for circulation. 	<p>5. Why was Canada included in the article?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. to draw a comparison to a similar event B. to give an example of why pennies should keep being made C. to introduce a new coin that the U.S. could use D. to highlight the differences in another country's payment system
<p>3. What detail shows that eliminating the penny has been considered for a long time?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. President Obama's statement about pennies in 2013 B. Canada's discontinuation of the production of its penny C. Congress's introduction of a bill in 1989 to round cash transactions D. the U.S. Mint's announcement last May 	<p>6. How is the article organized to help readers understand the event?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. by presenting the history of the penny and explaining events that led to the decision B. by introducing the problems caused by pennies, and naming several solutions to the problem C. by showing perspectives for and against the discontinuation of pennies D. by telling a story about the importance of pennies

7. What do you think businesses should do if they don't have the correct change for customers? Explain.
