Name: _____

Have You Got a Buck?

By Mikki Sadil

Have you ever heard the expression "gotta buck"? It refers to the one dollar bill, and although nobody seems to know how "buck" came to mean a dollar, the term has been around for a very long time. We call bills like the dollar ($1, $5, $10, $20, $50, and $100) *paper money*, but they're really not paper. They are made out of material, just like clothes, with tiny blue and red fibers running through them. Have you ever left a dollar in your jeans just before putting them in the wash? I'll bet the dollar always came out okay, didn't it? That's because this special material is printed with a secret kind of waterproof ink that won't run.

If you have a dollar bill, take it out so you can look at it as we go along. If you don't, you can use the picture below.

Preview
Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

The front of the bill is called the obverse side. To the right of George Washington, you'll see the U.S. Treasury Department Seal. On top of the seal is a scale that represents justice. In the center of the seal is a chevron with thirteen stars. Beneath that is the key to represent authority and trust.

Now turn the bill over. What do you see?

On the reverse side, you will see two circles which represent the Great Seal of the United States. Let's first talk about the left-hand circle. This is actually the back, or reverse side of the Great Seal.

You'll see a pyramid with the front lighted, but the Western side is dark. That dark side means we didn't know much about the West at that time. The Pyramid is uncapped, which means the U.S. was a new country and wasn't completely explored yet.

Inside the capstone of the pyramid is the "all-seeing eye", an ancient symbol of religion. Benjamin Franklin, who helped design the seal, believed that one man couldn't build a nation all by himself, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything.

The Latin words above and below the pyramid mean "God has favored our undertaking," and "A new order has begun." At the base of the Pyramid is the Roman numeral for the year 1776, the year the Declaration of Independence was signed.

Now look at the right-hand circle. This is the front, or obverse side of the Great Seal. In the [illegible] are the Latin words, "E PLURIBUS UNUM." This means, "out of many

Super Teacher Worksheets
Preview
Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

to protect that peace. Notice that the eagle's head is looking to the left, in the same direction of the olive branch. This shows that our country prefers peace over war.

Have you noticed the number *thirteen* comes up a lot? Some people consider 13 an unlucky number, but it's really a symbolic number for our country. The United States was started from 13 colonies and there were 13 original states. Our flag even has 13 red and white stripes on it. On the reverse side of the one dollar bill, you will notice lots of thirteens:

- 13 stars above the eagle
- 13 leaves on the olive branch
- 13 olives on the olive branch
- 13 pearls next to the seal and the pyramid
- 13 bars on the shield
- 13 steps on the pyramid
- 13 arrows

So the next time one of your friends talks about how the number 13 is unlucky, ask them to take out a dollar bill, and show them what *thirteen* really means to an American!

Name: _____

Have You Got a Buck?

By Mikki Sadil

1. What does the picture to the right show?

- **a.** the front side of the dollar bill
- **b.** the obverse side of the Great Seal of the United States
- **c.** the reverse side of the Great Seal of the United States
- **d.** the back side of the Great Seal of the United States

2. On th… f the dollar bill is a picture of...

…ent looking over our country

- **d.** religion

Preview
Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

4. What does the Latin phrase, "E PLURIBUS UNUM" mean?

_____

5. Describe the symbolism of the arrows and the olive branch. Also, explain why the eagle's head is looking to the left.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Have You Got a Buck?

By Mikki Sadil

The following terms are vocabulary words from the article. Match the vocabulary word with its correct definition by writing the corresponding letter on the line.

1. _____ buck

5. _____ reverse

6. _____ Latin

7. _____ pyramid

8. _____ Treasury

9. _____ olive branch

10. _____ jeans

a. language spoken by ancient Romans

b. slang term for a dollar

e. the government department responsible for budgeting and managing our country's money

f. small threads

g. type of pants made of denim

h. symbol shaped like a V or an upside-down V

i. front side

j. back side

Preview
Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

ANSWER KEY

Have You Got a Buck?

By Mikki Sadil

1. What does the picture to the right show?

a. the front side of the dollar bill

b. the obverse side of the Great Seal of the United States

c. the reverse side of the Great Seal of the United States

d. the back side of the Great Seal of the United States

2. On th… f the dollar bill is a picture of...

Preview
Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

…ent looking over our country

d. religion

4. What does the Latin phrase, "E PLURIBUS UNUM" mean?

"out of many, one"

5. Describe the symbolism of the arrows and the olive branch. Also, explain why the eagle's head is looking to the left.

The olive branch is a symbol of peace. The arrows are a symbol for war, showing that we will fight if necessary. The eagle is looking to the left to show our preference for peace.

ANSWER KEY

Have You Got a Buck?

By Mikki Sadil

The following terms are vocabulary words from the article. Match the vocabulary word with its correct definition by writing the corresponding letter on the line.

1. **b.** buck
5. **j.** reverse
6. **a.** Latin
7. **c.** pyramid
8. **e.** Treasury
9. **d.** olive branch
10. **g.** jeans

a. language spoken by ancient Romans

b. slang term for a dollar

e. the government department responsible for budgeting and managing our country's money

f. small threads

g. type of pants made of denim

h. symbol shaped like a V or an upside-down V

i. front side

j. back side

Preview
Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.