



## Find out about...

# Coins

### You will need

- A printed copy of these pages.
- Some ordinary coins and several 50p pieces if you have them
- Any coins you have from other countries, perhaps left from a holiday or visit abroad
- Wax crayons or a soft pencil
- Paper • Safe scissors
- Glue or sellotape

### and if you have them

*(but you can do without)*

- Some blu-tak or masking tape
- A ruler or tape measure

Printable activity for 7 to 10 year olds,  
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Coins haven't changed much for more than a thousand years. The first coins were made for Celtic leaders during the Iron Age. These Roman coins and are more than 1,650 years old. They were found in St Thomas, Exeter.



*RAMM Accession No. A1372 to 5*

**Can you see the Emperor's head?**

He was called Constans.

The small lines on the side of the photograph show centimetres and millimetres.

**Here is another Roman coin from about the same time.**

This one was found at Cowick Fields, near the River Exe. Coins today still show the head of the leader of the country where they were made.

**Lay your coins out so that you can see the heads.**

Coin specialists call this the obverse side.

**Here is the other side of the same coin.**

Most people call this side tails. Coin specialists call it the reverse side. This shows the Emperor Magentius holding a symbol of Victory.

The stick in his other hand is called a Standard. The shape on the top of his standard shows that he was a Christian.

The Latin words are FELICITAS REPUBLICA. They mean 'the happiness of the Republic'.

**Turn all your coins over and have a look at the tails.**

How many different symbols can you spot?

**Now make some rubbings...**

1. Stick the coin down to your table with blue-tak or folded masking tape if you have some.
2. Put a piece of paper on top of a coin.
3. Scribble over it carefully with the crayon or soft pencil. Can you see the picture coming through?
4. Compare your rubbings with this Roman coin. How are they the same? What's different?

**Use the next page to arrange your rubbings...**

1. Make rubbings of the tails sides like you did before.
2. Cut out your rubbings and stick them into the boxes on the next page.



RAMM Accession No. 20/1928

Find out about...

## Coins

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West of the Exe

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

If you want to record lots of coins just print off more copies of this page, or draw a table of your own on plain paper.

<b>Heads</b> (obverse)	<b>Tails</b> (reverse)	<b>Decoration</b>
		Ruler's name  Other symbols
		Ruler's name  Other symbols
		Ruler's name  Other symbols
		Ruler's name  Other symbols
		Ruler's name  Other symbols

Find out about...

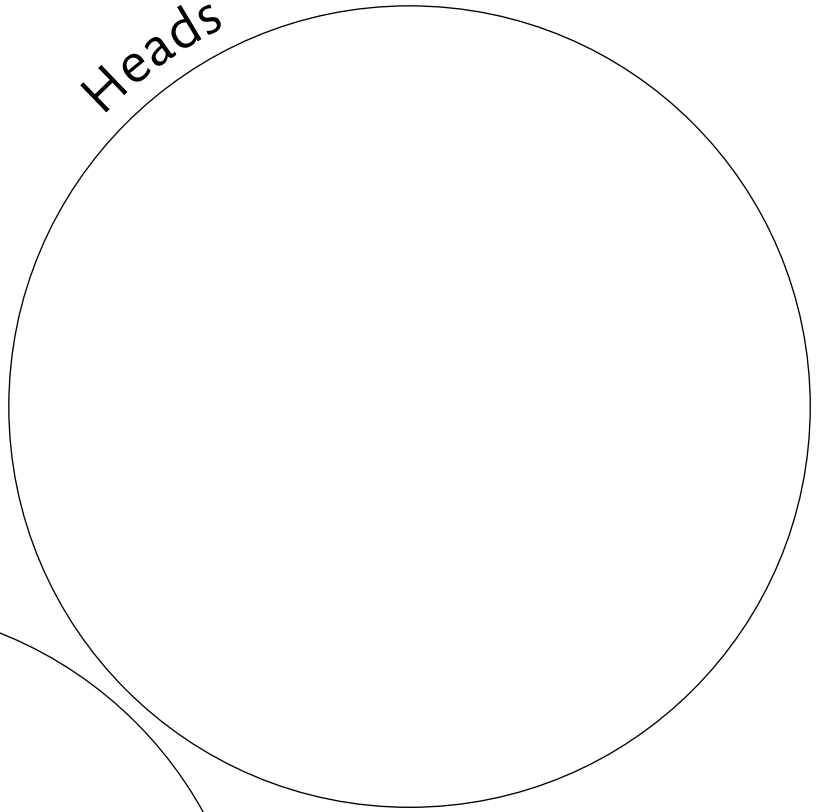
## Coins

Living here  
West of the Exe

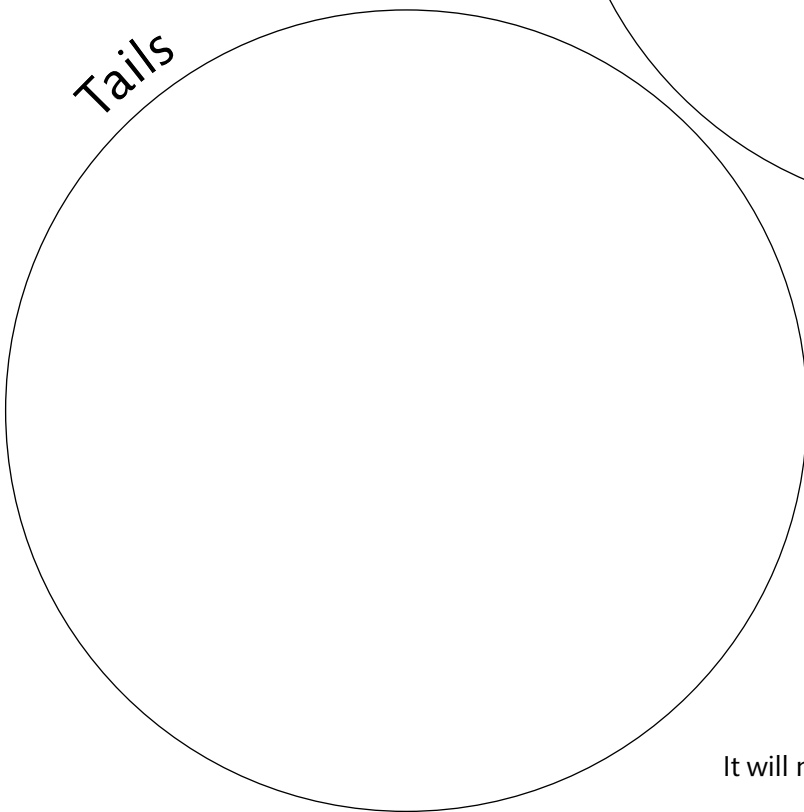
**Imagine you were a great leader...**

Design your own coin.

Heads



Tails



It will need a picture of your head on it.

What would you put on the tails side?

Use these circles to design your own coin.

You could make some rough sketches first.

If you want it to be a different shape just draw lines inside the circle.

Don't forget to add words and the year.

**Your name:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Other useful information

### Coins as clues

Old coins are very useful clues about life a long time ago. Archaeologists have studied these Roman coins. They are now carefully looked after by the Royal Albert Memorial Museum. Even small metal objects can tell us much about the past. They can help us understand more about the place they were found and how people used or lived on that land in ancient times.

Some people spend years investigating coins.

This study is called numismatics. If you want to know more you could ask for a book at your local library.

### Metal detectors and treasure

Most of these Roman coins were found by accident. Today people sometimes find coins if they are out walking, or even searching with metal detectors. Each tiny object is a piece in the much bigger jigsaw of the landscape.

One of the people who works at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter has a special job called a Finds Liaison Officer. Her name is Danielle.

### She says:

*"My job is to meet people who have found archaeological objects which were made a long time ago. I can help you understand what the finds are and make sure they are properly recorded. There is also more information for grown ups and some fun children's activities at [www.finds.org.uk](http://www.finds.org.uk)"*

Please get in touch with Danielle Wootton for FREE advice, or to report finds:

[danielle.wootton@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.wootton@exeter.gov.uk)

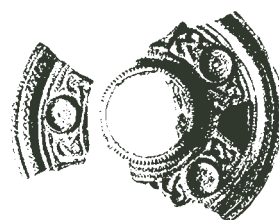
T. 01393 665983

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This coin was made for the Emperor Nero (AD 54-68). It was found beside the Plymouth Inn in Alphington Road. It is an *as*. This is the lowest amount of money for an early Roman coin found in Britain, a bit like a 1p coin today.



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