



Design your own Coins!

Suitable for: Children aged 4-11

Things You Will Need:

- Oven-bake clay or playdough
- Play money
- Buttons and other textured items
- Rubber texture stamps
- Clay sculpting tools

You will love making lots of marks in your clay or playdough and the amount of coins you can make!

About this craft activity: Younger children will enjoy making marks and older children will enjoy discussion and questions about why coins look the way they do and what the images on them show.

Did you know? This silver penny from Athelstan's reign shows the **first time** a portrait of a king was featured in a crown! Can you read the inscription? It reads REX TOT(ius) BRIT(anniae) - Athelstan had invaded Northumbria and York. This coin proclaims him King of All Britain. King Athelstan ruled 924 to 939 AD and was coronated on the site of All Saints Church, Kingston.



How to Make Your Coins

Before you start: Decide on a monetary value: How much value will your coins have? What size will the coins be? What different colours can you use?



Step 1: Make the coins: Roll your clay into a ball and smash it with your thumb to make a coin shape about 1/4 of an inch thick.

Step 2: Make a design: what images will your coins have on? Will it be a smooth new coin, or an old coin, with lots of marks and scratches? What country, real or imagined, could your coins be from? Will you have a crown like King Athelstan? Will your image have marks around the edges?



Top tip: *find lots of things that you can press into your clay or playdough like buttons with interesting patterns, cocktail sticks and even try making shapes with cookie cutters!*

Step 3: Bake your clay according to your package directions. Allow the money to cool before playing with it.

