

Headgear Variations

Helmet -- The most common headgear variation you're likely to see on your coins is a helmet. Rather than trying to construct one, you may be able to buy an inexpensive plastic Roman helmet at a costume store. Halloween is a good time to look, of course, but so is Easter, since there's a brisk demand around then for centurion costumes for church plays and pageants.



If you have a costume helmet, you can also show students how emperors on coins sometimes wear a diadem, laurel wreath, or radiate crown superimposed on their helmet. You can also help them identify the images of Rome and Constantinople, each of which is personified as a helmeted woman on the coins commemorating those two cities.

Women's hairdos -- It's unlikely that any students will be lucky enough to get a coin with an empress on it. A crinkly, marcelled-hair wig would be the ideal prop to illustrate late-imperial Empresses' hairdos, but absent that, it might be useful to show this bust of Julia Domna (courtesy of VRoma.org) along with one of her coins:



Veil -- Occasionally an ACE coin batch will include one of the Constantine commemoratives, minted after his death. On the obverse of this type of coin, Constantine is shown with his head veiled -- though as is often pointed out, he

looks like a woman wearing a shawl over her head. You can achieve more or less the same effect with a plain chiffon scarf.