

INTRODUCTION TO COINS: WEBQUEST

Before we begin the coin project, you will learn a little about Roman coinage through a Webquest. This way, you will be less likely to cause damage to the coin when you are cleaning it. You will learn about what you are looking for and where to expect details that you might otherwise mistake for something that needs to be removed from the coin.

Did you know that the parts of coins have names?

HEADS AND TAILS?!

Define the following:

obverse

inscription

rim

field

reverse

(or legend)

exergue

iconography

Use the supplied URLs to answer the following questions.

<http://dougsmith.ancients.info/voc.htm>

- 1.) What are *coins*?
- 2.) What is *numismatics*?
- 3.) How should you answer if someone asks when coinage was invented?
- 4.) What is Roman Republican? What is Roman Imperial?
- 5.) To what period do the earliest Roman coins date? (Move to Part 3, Roman Republican; scan or skip Greek)
- 6.) What was *aes rude*? Where was it used?
- 7.) What was *aes signatum*?
- 8.) When was silver introduced into Roman coinage?
- 9.) What is a *denarius*?
- 10.) What does the abbreviation **AE** signify? What does **AR** signify?
- 11.) What was the basic unit of Republican coinage? What is the plural form?
- 12.) Who are *moneyers*?
- 13.) What is *anepigraphic*?
- 14.) Who are some gods and goddesses that are represented on Roman coins?
- 15.) What is *incuse*?
- 16.) What is an *attribute*?
- 17.) What is a *ligature*?

Look at the coins on <http://dougsmith.ancients.info/voc3.html>

<http://dougsmith.ancients.info/voc4.html> and <http://dougsmith.ancients.info/voc5.html>

Our coins probably will be most like the coins of the late 3rd and 4th centuries. (especially part 5). What are some of the characteristics of these coins?

Look at some of the gods and goddesses on Roman coins:

<http://dougsmith.ancients.info/gods.html>

Look at some of the personifications on Roman coins:

<http://dougsmith.ancients.info/pers.html>

Look at the animals on ancient coins at:

<http://www.beastcoins.com/Topical/Animals-Ancient/AncientAnimals.htm>

Are you ready to begin deciphering some of the legends? Use

<http://www.calgarycoin.com/reference/articles/anatomy/anatomy.htm> or other links you find on

http://ancientcoinsforeducation.org/index.php?option=com_weblinks&catid=30&Itemid=23 to find out what the following abbreviations stand for.

IMP CAES AUG PM TR P COS SPQR

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The following URL refers you to other sites we will use in identifying your coins.

http://ancientcoinsforeducation.org/index.php?option=com_weblinks&catid=30&Itemid=23