

The U.S. Mint

This activity accompanies “The Real Question,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5158.

Activity Title: The U.S. Mint

Description: The students will explain the history of the United States money system.

Subject: Social Studies

Skill: Economics

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain the history of the United States money system.

Materials:

- “The Real Question” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Internet access to history about the United States Mint available at: <http://www.usmint.gov/kids/campCoin/timeline/>

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students the main idea and dialect of the poem. Then, visit the website listed above with the students to learn about the United States Mint, and the history of money in the United States. Have the students write down five facts from the information on the website as they search through it themselves, or you read it aloud. If there is time, have the students complete some of the art or puzzle games on the website.

