

Featured Artifact: Copper Pattern Dollar

Era 3: Revolution and the New Nation (1754-1820s)

<http://historyexplorer.americanhistory.si.edu/resource/?key=1143>



Look at the artifact presented to you. In a few sentences, respond to the following questions:

Describe: Objectively describe the artifact. What do you think it is made of? What does it look like? Does it look old or new? Is it intact, or is it damaged in some way?

Analyze: When, where or how do you think this item was used? What kind of person may have created or used this item? What significance do you think the object held, either for the creator or the user? Do you see words or images on the artifact that connect it to others (besides the creator and user)?

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Share your conclusions with a partner, then discuss the following:

Evaluate : Justify why you came to those conclusions about the artifact. What further questions do you have about the object? Of those questions, which could you solve by observing the object in person and which would you need to solve with research?

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Background Information

Once a new national government had been established under a new Constitution, attention naturally turned to ways of proclaiming national identity. A new, national coinage was one way of doing so, especially if it featured patriotic new images, rather than the endless sequence of crowned monarchs and coats of arms adorning the coinage of Old Europe.

After reading and considering the background information, compose a response to the following:

Analyze: Address the following object-specific questions:

- Aside from coinage, what do you think were some other things that had to be considered in establishing a new nation? What might we take for granted in an established nation that a new one may not have?
- Why do you think these particular images were chosen to adorn the coin?

Synthesize: What does this object tell us about the era in which it was created, or the American experience as a whole? How would you describe the social, economic, or political climate of America during this time? What connections can you make between this object and other things that you have seen, read, or experienced?

Analyze: Address the following era-specific essential questions:

- What impact did the American Revolution have on politics, economy, and society?