

250TH SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY COINS *Handout & Exercise*

"The designs on these historic coins depict the story of America's journey toward a 'more perfect union,' and celebrate America's defining ideals of liberty. We hope to offer each American the opportunity to hold our nation's storied 250 years of history in the palms of their hands as we Connect America through Coins." — U.S. Mint Acting Director Kristie McNally

The *United States Mint* will celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary with a variety of coin initiatives to mark this significant milestone in American History. The 250th, or *semiquincentennial anniversary*, provides an opportunity for Americans to commemorate our shared past, celebrate our present achievements, and look forward to our collective future with hope and anticipation. The Mint recently unveiled one-year-only design changes to the circulating dimes, quarters, and half dollars, authorized by Public Law 116-330. The circulating dimes, quarters, and half dollars are reminiscent of the coinage initiatives undertaken in 1976 to mark the bicentennial. The designs of the dime, quarter, and half dollar unfold across three acts, each representing distinct themes.

Commemorative Nickel and Dime

As mentioned above, the United States Mint will issue both new coins and design updates to existing coin series to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding. The 2026 nickel will feature a subtle but special design update: The forward-looking portrait of Thomas Jefferson, inspired by the iconic 1800 painting by Rembrandt Peale, and will now reflect the dual 1776-2026 dates. The nickel will keep Thomas Jefferson's famous home, *Monticello*, on the reverse.

The traditional Roosevelt Dime design will be replaced by the "Emerging Liberty" design. The obverse features a modern take on Liberty's profile, with winds blowing through her hair and standing steadfast against British tyranny. The reverse features an eagle, inspired by a symbol that appeared on the first dimes in 1796, with the inscription "Liberty over Tyranny." This update marks the first time in 80 years that the design of the circulating dime has been changed, the first time Liberty has appeared on the dime since 1945, and the first time an eagle has appeared on a dime since 1837. Together, these depictions symbolize the fight for independence. These images replace the traditional Franklin Roosevelt image on the obverse for one year.



2. Revolutionary War - American Patriot forces, organized as the Continental Army under George Washington, defeated the British Army. Washington is featured on the face of the coin. On the back is a soldier at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, whose "resolute gaze shows his will to overcome the trials of the war in pursuit of liberty," according to the Mint. Valley Forge was a pivotal winter encampment where Washington transformed the ragtag militia into a regimented, disciplined Continental Army capable of defeating the British. George Washington was the first President of the United States.



(continued)

3. Declaration of Independence - The design celebrates a core founding document, the Declaration of Independence, and features its author, Thomas Jefferson, who later became the third U.S. president. The reverse design depicts the Liberty Bell ringing. Its crack is visible, a symbol of the fragility of the young nation at its founding. While Congress declared its independence from Great Britain on July 2, 1776, and the Declaration of Independence was adopted two days later, delegates began signing it on August 2, 1776, at Independence Hall, the former Pennsylvania State House.



4. The Constitution - The face of the U.S. Constitution Quarter features James Madison, the fourth U.S. president, popularly known as the “Father of the Constitution” for his role in drafting and promoting the foundational document. Independence Hall is featured on the reverse side. The Constitution was written and debated during the Constitutional Convention from May to September 1787, and finally signed on September 17 of that year.



5. Gettysburg Address - The final quarter in the series highlights President Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863. at the dedication of the Soldiers’ National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, months after the pivotal Civil War battle that stopped Confederate General Robert E. Lee’s second invasion of the North, and set the stage for eventual Union victory. The Gettysburg Address is recognized as one of the most poignant speeches in American history and timeless in its appeal. It elevated the Civil War from a fight to preserve the Union into a sacred struggle for human equality. It honored fallen soldiers by linking their sacrifice to the nation’s founding ideals of liberty and democracy. It appealed to all Americans to advance the principles for which the soldiers gave their lives.



Though they will not be circulated, collectible half-dollar and 1-cent pieces will also be minted and made available for purchase. The last 1-cent piece was minted on November 12, 2025, and the penny is no longer a circulating coin. Still, the Mint is offering a collectible penny that can be purchased, but will not be put into circulation. A collectible half-dollar is also offered.

Design Your Own Coin for America 250

Design a coin (one-side) that represents what America stands for at its 250th anniversary. Use symbols and words to convey civic values such as liberty, unity, and democracy.

QUESTIONS

TRUE OR FALSE? Write a **T** or **F** in the space provided.

- ___ 1. The Supreme Court decides on who will be displayed on American money.
- ___ 2. These coins will continue to be issued until the 500th Anniversary of America’s independence.
- ___ 3. Thomas Jefferson is considered the “Father of the Constitution.”
- ___ 4. Franklin D. Roosevelt will be replaced on the dime for year 2026.
- ___ 5. A new penny featuring James Madison will be put into circulation for the 250th celebration.

