

THE CONSTITUTION AND MONEY




STUDENT HANDOUT OR CLASSROOM EXERCISE

Move over Andrew Jackson. You're getting company on the \$20 bill and *her* name is ...

In June of 2015, U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said a woman will be featured on a redesigned \$20 bill in 2020 -- **the 100th anniversary of the Constitution's 19th Amendment**, which gave women the right to vote. In April of 2016, Treasury Secretary Lew announced the most sweeping and historically symbolic makeover of American currency in a century, proposing to replace the slaveholding Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill with Harriet Tubman, the former slave and abolitionist, and to add women and civil rights leaders to the \$5 and \$10 notes. The last woman on U.S. paper currency was Martha Washington, who was on the \$1 Silver Certificate between 1891 and 1896.



Below is a summary of the changes:

The New \$20	The New \$10	The New \$5
		
The front of the new \$20 will feature the portrait of Harriet Tubman , whose life was dedicated to fighting for liberty. The reverse of the new \$20 will depict the White House and an image of President Andrew Jackson .	The new \$10 will celebrate the history of the women's suffrage movement, and feature images of Lucretia Mott, Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Alice Paul , alongside the Treasury building. The front of the new \$10 will retain the portrait of Alexander Hamilton .	The new \$5 will honor historic events that occurred at the Lincoln Memorial in service of our democracy, and will feature Martin Luther King, Jr., Marian Anderson, and Eleanor Roosevelt . The front of the new \$5 will retain the portrait of President Lincoln .

Other excerpts from his Secretary Lew's announcement in April of 2016:

"Over the course of the last 10 months, you put forth hundreds of names of people who have played a pivotal role in our nation's history. Many of you proposed that our new currency highlight democracy in action and reflect the diversity of our great nation. Some of you suggested we skip the redesign of the \$10 note, which is the next in line for a security upgrade, and move immediately to redesigning the \$20 note. And others proposed unconventional ideas, such as creating a \$25 bill."

"The decision to put Harriet Tubman on the new \$20 was driven by thousands of responses we received from Americans young and old. I have been particularly struck by the many comments and reactions from children for whom Harriet Tubman is not just a historical figure, but a role model for leadership and participation in our democracy. You shared your thoughts about her life and her works and how they changed our nation and represented our most cherished values."

"Due to security needs, the redesigned \$10 note is scheduled to go into circulation next. I have directed the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to work closely with the Federal Reserve to accelerate work on the new \$20 and \$5 notes. Our goal is to have all three new notes go into circulation as quickly as possible, while ensuring that we protect against counterfeiting through effective and sophisticated production."

(over)

Discussion Review - Questions related to this article.

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

- ___ 1. There has never been a women of U.S. Currency.
- ___ 2. President Andrew Jackson was a former slave holder.
- ___ 3. Harriet Tubman will soon be on the front of the \$20 bill.
- ___ 4. The Supreme Court decides on who will be displayed on American money.
- ___ 5. The \$10 bill will not have any changes in the upcoming years.
- ___ 6. The Secretary of Treasury is one of the president's 15 cabinet positions.
- ___ 7. The current Secretary of Treasury is John Kerry.
- ___ 8. Martin Luther King Jr. will be featured on the new \$5 bill.
- ___ 9. The public had no voice in who would be featured on the redesigned currency.
- ___ 10. The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote.

Answers to the T-F Questions:
1. F 2. T 3. T 4. F 5. F 6. T 7. F 8. T 9. F 10. T

Classroom Activity – Extra Credit – Team Building

Ask you students to give a more in depth report on the individuals who will now be prominently displayed on redesigned currency, and have them report on the background of each, giving reasons as to why this person was selected. This is also suited for team or extra credit activities.

- Harriet Tubman
- Lucretia Mott
- Sojourner Truth
- Susan B. Anthony
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- Alice Paul
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- Marian Anderson