

## 50 Years of Decimal Currency

### TASK 1

#### The Introduction

**'In come the dollars, in come the \_\_\_\_\_,  
To replace the pounds and shillings and pence.  
Be prepared for changes when the coins begin to mix.  
On the 14<sup>th</sup> of February \_\_\_\_\_.  
Click go the cents folks, clink, clink, clink,  
Changeover day is closer than you \_\_\_\_\_.  
Learn the value of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the way that they appear,  
And things will be much smoother when the decimal point is here.'**

\* Fill in the blanks

The lyrics of this jingle (written by Ted Roberts) were sung to the song Click Go the Shears to educate the public about the introduction of decimal currency in Australia.



Have a go at singing the jingle.



What currency was being used in Australia before 1966?

When the decision was approved by the Australian Government to introduce the decimal system, a unit of currency had to be decided upon. The dollar was not the automatic choice.

Others seriously considered for the name included the *austral*, *merino* and *royal*.



Have a vote in your class to see which name is the most popular.



Make a list of other names that would be suitable to label our currency instead of dollars and cents..

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### TASK 2

#### What ever happened to.....

When decimal currency was introduced in 1966, a 1 cent coin, 2 cent coin, 5 cent coin, 10 cent coin, 20 cent coin and round 50 cent coin were issued along with a \$1, \$2, \$10 and \$20 note.



In 1967 and 1968 there were no 50 cent coins minted but on its return in 1969 its shape had changed to a dodecagon to remove confusion with the similar sized 20 cent coin.



In 1990 the Australian Government announced the withdrawal of the 1 and 2 cent coins because of a decline in their worth. They had become more expensive to produce and distribute than the actual value of each coin.



In 1966, a one dollar and two dollar note were issued but they were replaced by coins to help reduce costs of maintaining the paper notes in a sound condition. The \$1 coin was first circulated in 1984 And the \$2 coin in 1988.



**Find out who or what was found on the 1 cent, 2 cent, 1 dollar and 2 dollar.**



**Why do you think the one and two dollar notes were made into coins?**



**Find out when the \$50 and \$100 note were introduced.**

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### TASK 3

#### Take note of the note

Each of the current banknotes in circulation - \$5, \$5 (federation), \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 - has a front and back depicting a famous Australian.

On which note would you find these people portrayed?

What are they renowned for?

Which is the odd one out?

Visit [www.rba.gov.au](http://www.rba.gov.au) to assist you.

A.B 'Banjo' Paterson  
Catherine Helen Spence  
Dame Mary Gilmore  
Dame Nellie Melba  
David Unaipon  
Edith Cowan  
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II  
Mary Reiby  
Parliament House  
Reverend John Flynn  
Sir Henry Parkes  
Sir John Monash

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### TASK 4

#### Designing coins and notes

Unfortunately, money doesn't grow on trees and therefore has to be made. The Reserve bank of Australia has all Australian notes printed by Note Printing Australia and coins are produced by the Royal Australian Mint.

You have been asked to design a new \$5 coin as well as a \$500 note. Consider these elements when making your design.

- The obverse (head) of the coin must portray the effigy of Queen Elizabeth II, the word Australia as well as 2016.
- The reverse side of the coin should consist of an Australian motif (not already in use) and a numeral indicating the value of the coin.
- The size of the coin or note.
- The colour of the coin or note.
- The note must display a famous Australian or famous Australian landmark.
- The note must have the word Australia shown clearly.
- The note must have the numerals and words indicating the value of it.



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### TASK 5

### Crack the coinage clues

Use the clues to figure out the coin related word then find the word in the puzzle.

1. I probe for ants and termites using my snout.
2. You need five of me to make one dollar.
3. I have a duck like bill and webbed feet.
4. I live in a mob and am one of the animals on the Australian Coat of Arms.
5. My beautiful tail feathers are shaped like an ancient musical instrument which lends its name to me.
6. The prefix 'deci' refers to my value.
7. I am the smallest of the denominations.
8. I am unlike the other round coins as I'm a dodecagon.
9. I feature 5 marsupials.
10. I show an Aboriginal tribal elder against a background of the Southern Cross.
11. I am the official symbol of Australia.

\* You may find each word more than once in the puzzle

P	E	L	D	R	I	B	E	R	Y	L	E	C	H	I	D	N	A
L	C	Y	R	W	N	E	C	H	I	D	N	A	W	I	H	C	E
A	H	R	I	U	L	S	U	P	Y	T	A	L	P	Y	S	C	T
T	I	E	B	E	T	O	N	E	D	O	L	L	A	R	N	N	F
Y	D	B	E	P	D	N	T	S	M	R	A	F	O	T	A	O	C
P	N	I	R	P	L	A	T	Y	P	U	S	E	I	D	F	D	O
U	A	R	Y	S	T	N	E	C	E	V	I	F	S	L	T	R	H
S	S	D	L	T	E	N	C	E	N	T	S	T	C	L	W	I	Y
O	C	T	O	C	F	I	V	E	C	E	N	T	S	O	O	B	D
L	N	B	N	S	T	N	E	C	N	E	T	T	W	O	D	E	I
S	S	E	A	E	S	W	P	T	C	N	N	O	T	R	O	R	C
O	T	Y	D	A	C	Y	O	Y	C	E	O	K	M	A	L	Y	O
L	N	N	N	O	T	E	T	D	C	A	L	Y	U	G	L	L	P
O	E	I	E	A	L	N	V	Y	O	O	R	A	G	N	A	K	G
D	C	Y	L	C	E	L	T	I	D	L	T	E	O	A	R	T	T
O	N	P	D	W	N	F	A	E	F	A	L	F	T	K	A	E	O
W	E	T	T	K	I	E	N	R	A	A	K	A	N	G	A	R	R
T	T	R	A	F	C	O	T	T	T	E	E	N	R	U	L	C	L