





ACTIVITY: THE RETURN OF SACAGAWEA

In February 2000, the U.S. Mint released a new dollar coin featuring the image of Sacagawea, the Native American guide who helped explorers Lewis and Clark. The last dollar coin released in the United States, the Susan B. Anthony coin issued in 1979, met a lukewarm (at best) reception from the U.S. public. But the U.S. Mint holds that the new Sacagawea coin has many new features that will make it widely used in the United States.

In this activity, you will visit online resources to find out the differences between these two coins and to evaluate whether those differences make the new coin better than the old one.

First, visit the online lesson “**The Return of Sacagawea**,” as directed by your teacher. You’ll find links there that will help you complete the activities listed below.

In the chart below, record the differences between the new and the old dollar coins:

 Sacagawea Golden Dollar	 Susan B. Anthony Silver Dollar

In your opinion, is the new dollar coin better than the old one? Why or why not?

NOW TRY THIS: Have you seen the new state quarters? Try applying some of the same questions raised about the new gold dollar to the new state quarters. Discuss as a class why you think they are being created. Why might the state quarters have ridged edges? What do you think are the benefits of issuing a new quarter for each state?

Coin images from EconEdLink-reviewed “The Gold Dollar Coin” (<http://www.usmint.gov/goldendollar/>); Sacagawea image: Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library.

