

Title: A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Grade: 9-12

Overview: Students will look at different examples of euro bills and coins to see what images are used. They are asked to think about the significance of these images. Teacher can provide background information on the images that were selected (see [Further Readings p. 8, The Euro.](#)) After discussing the images the students, in groups, decide what types of images they think should go on the US dollars. The students work in groups to design new dollars with images they believe are appropriate. Students then write a brief essay explaining and supporting their image.

Objectives: Students will evaluate and design images for banknotes based on their evaluation of euros and dollars.

Subject Areas: Art, World Language, Social Studies

Materials: Images of euro notes and coins; images of American dollar notes and coins; poster board or paper; pens and markers; writing paper; computer (optional)

Opening:

1. Students are shown images of American banknotes and coins. Individually they write down what they believe the images represent and why they are on the notes or coins.

Activity:

1. Students are placed in groups of 4 or 5 and share the thoughts they wrote during the opening.
2. Students see images of euro notes and coins, and the teacher explains the symbolism and logic behind each denomination.
3. Students work in groups to design new notes and coins for the US.
 - a. Groups decide what should go on the notes and coins and why. Groups must be able to defend their choices.
 - b. Each group should design a different denomination.
4. Students present their designs the rest of the class.
5. The class discusses the ideas of national identity and monetary images.
6. Students write an essay or topical paragraph explaining and supporting their image.

Extension: Students can research the history of US banknotes and coins and the images on them at the Office of printing and engraving's website <http://www.moneyfactory.gov/newmoney/index.cfm>

Educational Content Standards for Washington State:

Social Studies (Economics): 3.2

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