

THE PAW PRINT

SPARKY'S EXCLUSIVE NEWSLETTER FOR KIDS!

WHERE HAVE ALL The Pennies Gone?

It's probably the easiest coin to spot: the little copper-colored penny. On one side is President Abraham Lincoln. On the other, the Lincoln Memorial. While a penny can't buy anything anymore, it has always been a popular coin in American culture. But last year was the VERY last year the penny would be made. So why was the penny ended, and what are we going to do with all the pennies we still have?

WHY STOP MAKING PENNIES?

The United States government made 2025 the last year it would MINT the penny. This is the term for creating new coins or other forms of physical money and making them available to use. CIRCULATION is when a coin or type of money is being used by people and businesses for everyday purchases. While the penny is no longer being minted, pennies are still in circulation.

There are a lot of good reasons to stop using the penny:

1. Everything is MUCH more expensive than it was when the penny was first introduced (1793!) The penny just isn't very useful.
2. It costs more than 3 cents to make a single penny – meaning each penny costs a lot more than it is worth!

3. Electronic forms of payment like debit cards or apps are much more popular ways to pay and don't rely on passing pennies around.

UHH THAT WILL BE \$3.33

So how do you pay for things if an amount is less than 5 cents? Each business will have to decide to ROUND amounts up or down. When you round a number, you use the highest or lowest number that will work. So let's say your cold drink costs \$3.33. Now that the penny is gone, some businesses will choose to lower the price to \$3.30, some raise it to \$3.35 so that you can buy that drink with coins that are easy to get.

Another answer is that some businesses might stop accepting coins and cash, relying only on digital payments and credit or debit cards!



CAN WE STILL USE PENNIES?

Yes! Pennies are still fine to use, and you can even bring your pennies to Firefighters Community Credit Union to get added to your account.

Share with Sparky!

Many people have coin collections – which might be more valuable now that the penny is no longer being made. Do you collect anything valuable like coins? Will you ever sell your collection or is it too special to you? **Write your answer below and mail it with your coloring contest entry or email it to communications@ffcommunity.com**

Penny Power

- **Penny Loafers:** A type of shoe made popular in the 1930's, these slip-on leather shoes had a strap over the top with a small slot that was perfect for hiding a penny – useful before cellular phones when a pay phone cost 1 cent!
- **Penny Dreadful:** These popular stories were big in the mid-1800s. They were short chapters of longer stories, sold for just a penny, and usually featured exciting, scary, or shocking characters!



Smokey's TWO CENTS

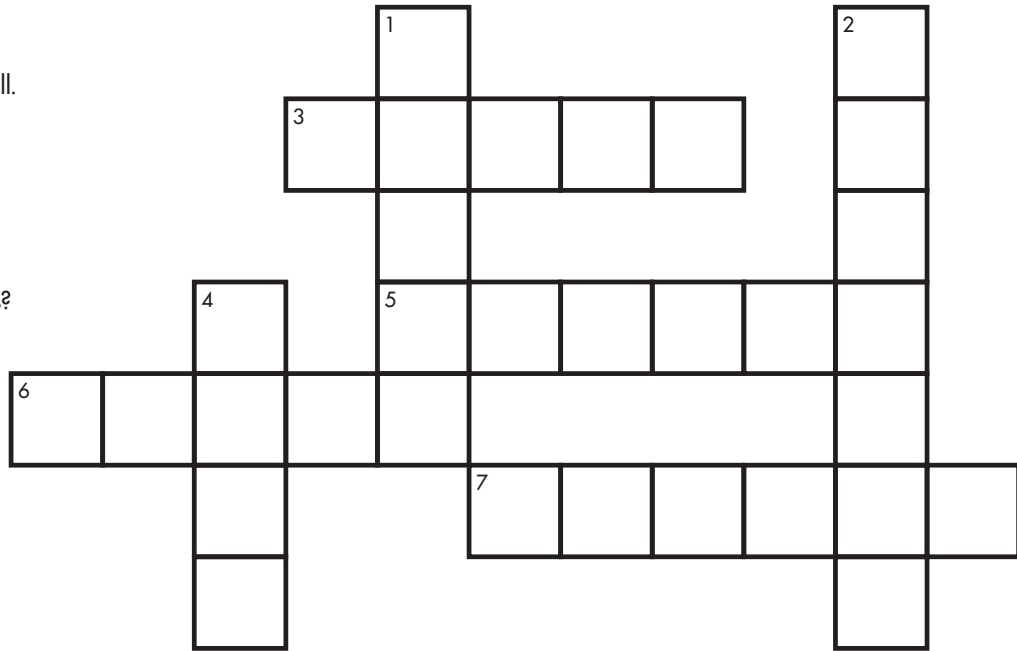
Test your knowledge by completing the crossword puzzle below.

ACROSS

3. _____ for your thoughts?
5. Can be a coin or a paper bill.
6. The back side of a coin.
7. Which coin is worth 5 cents?

DOWN

1. The front side of a coin.
2. Which coin is worth 25 cents?
4. What is the smallest coin?



Coloring Contest

Congratulations to **Giavanna T.** for winning our Q1 Sparky coloring contest!



Color with Sparky and Smokey! Submit your entry **by May 18, 2026** for a chance to win a prize!

(Child) Name: _____ Age: _____ Phone: _____

(Parent/Guardian) Name: _____ Email: _____

Mail to: FFCCU-Sparky's Club 4664 East 71st Street, Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio 44125