

Name _____ Date _____

How American coins are made

American coins are made in the U.S. mint. The U.S. mint buys strips of metal in coils about 13 inches wide and 1,500 feet long. This is used to make the nickel, dime, quarter, half-dollar and dollar. The coils are first sent through a blanking press which punches out round discs called blanks. The leftover strips is shredded and recycled.

The blanks are heated in a furnace to soften them. Then, they are run through a washer and dryer. After they are dried, the shiny blanks are sorted to screen out any that are the wrong shape or size. Next, the good blanks go through a mill that raises a rim around their edges.

Finally, the blanks go to the coining press. Here, they are stamped with the designs and inscriptions, which make them genuine coins.

A press operator uses a magnifying glass to spot-check each batch of new coins. Then, all the coins go through a coin sizer to remove any dented ones.

An automatic counting machine counts the coins and drops them into large canvas bags. The bags are sewn shut, loaded on pallets and taken by forklifts to be stored in vaults. New coins are shipped by truck to Federal Reserve Banks. From there, they go to the local banks.

Circle the correct answer

- Coins are made in the _____.
a. US furnace b. US mint c. US press d. US washer
- The leftover metal is _____.
a. burned b. used c. recycled d. thrown out
- A press operator uses a _____ to check the new coins.
a. magnifying glass b. furnace c. press d. forklift
- The _____ coins have to be removed.
a. shiny b. dry c. dented d. sizer
- The new coins are _____ counted and dropped into a bag.
a. forklift b. automatically c. vaulted d. canvas
- Once the coins are in the bags, the bags are _____ shut.
a. sewn b. stapled c. glued d. pressed
- The new coins are stored in the _____.
a. local bank b. banks c. federal reserve bank d. vaults
- The new coins are shipped by truck to the _____.
a. federal reserve bank b. local banks c. printing press d. pallets

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