

A Million-Dollar Nickel

1. Five cents doesn't buy you much these days, but the 1913 Liberty Head nickel is worth a fortune. Just ask the family of George Walton.

Big Reward

2. A month after Paul Montgomery, a coin collector in New Hampshire, offered a \$1 million reward for the 1913 Liberty Head nickel—one of the rarest American coins—the Walton family came forward and said that they thought they owned one.
3. The family had put the coin away after Walton's death in 1962, believing the nickel was worthless. But after learning of the offer, the family decided to see if their nickel was **genuine**. Experts determined it was.



The Liberty Head Nickels were made from 1883 - 1913. The nickels were made of 75% copper and 25% nickel.

History of the Liberty Head Nickel

4. The story of the Liberty Head nickel began in 1883. That's when the U.S. Mint began producing the coins. In 1912, the mint replaced the Liberty Head nickel with the Indian Head, or Buffalo, nickel.
5. But in 1913, someone—probably an employee of the U.S. Mint—illegally minted five additional Liberty Head coins.
6. Two of the rare 1913 nickels are now owned by coin collectors, and two others are in a museum. What happened to the fifth one remained a mystery—until now.
7. "It's been missing for so long," said coin dealer John Dannreuther. "People would say there are only four, but we knew there were five. And there it is."
8. At an auction, a 1913 Liberty Head Nickel sold for the second-highest price ever paid for a coin. It sold for \$4.15 million. Why would anyone pay so much for a coin? A *numismatist* (new-miss-ma-tist) would. A numismatist is a person who collects and studies things used as money such as coins and bills. Coin collecting is not a new idea. The first person in history known to collect coins lived from 63 B.C. to 14 A.D. Augustus Caesar was the first emperor of Rome and collected coins as well as gave them for gifts.

The Goddess of Liberty is depicted on the front of the nickel. She was also the inspiration for the Statue of Liberty



The word cents was not included in the first coins Liberty Head nickels that were minted. The coins were confused with a \$5.00 coin. The word "cents" was added later.

Name _____ Date _____

1. Which of the following questions is answered under the heading **Big Reward**?
 - A. What was the highest price the Liberty Head Nickel sold for?
 - B. Who offered a reward for the Liberty Head Nickel?
 - C. Who was the first known person to collect coins?
 - D. Who is on the front of the Liberty Head Nickel?
2. What does the caption at the top of the article help the reader to understand?
 - A. What the Liberty Head Nickels were made of
 - B. Who is on the front of the Liberty Head Nickel
 - C. How many Liberty Head Nickels are there
 - D. What coin was the Liberty Head Nickel confused with
3. The author put the word **genuine** in bold to -
 - A. explain the topic or main idea of paragraph 3
 - B. give information about the photograph in the article
 - C. tell the reader that the word is important
 - D. share the timeline of the invention of the coin
4. Which of the following questions is answered under the section titled **History of the Liberty Head Nickel**?
 - A. What does genuine mean?
 - B. Why did the family put the coin away?
 - C. What is a numismatist?
 - D. What two metals is the nickel made of?
5. What would be the best heading for paragraph 8?
 - A. Coin Collectors
 - B. Missing Coin
 - C. Coin Production
 - D. Roman Coins

Directions: Read the question. Choose all correct choices

6. What information can be learned by reading the diagram at the end of the article?

The Goddess of Liberty is on the front of the nickel.
Augustus Caesar collected coins and gave them for gifts.
The Goddess of Liberty inspired the Statue of Liberty
Five dollar coins were confused with the Liberty Head Nickel
The word "cents" was always on the Liberty Head Nickel.

7. What would be another good title for the article?
- A. Coin Collecting
 - B. An Expensive Nickel
 - C. Copper Coins
 - D. The U.S. Mint

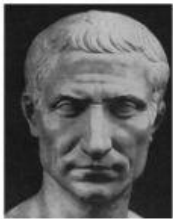
8. From the headings in the article, the reader can predict the article will be mostly about -

- A. a reward offered for a lost coin
- B. the creation and value of a coin
- C. how nickels are made today
- D. coins from the Roman Empire

9. The author includes photographs to -

- A. to help the reader understand what the coin looks like
- B. to persuade the reader to become a coin collector
- C. to show how Liberty Head Nickels are made
- D. to fill the empty spaces in the article

10. What photograph and caption could be added to paragraph 4?

A.	 Augustus Caesar	C.	 Statue of Liberty
B.	 Buffalo Nickel	D.	 Smithsonian Museum