

New \$1 Coins Honor U.S. Presidents



You soon may see a new coin with a familiar face on it when you go shopping.

On February 15, the U.S. Mint released the first \$1 coin honoring U.S. presidents. The first coin has a picture of George Washington on it. Four coins with pictures of different U.S. presidents will come out every year until 2016. The \$1 coins will come out in the order the presidents were elected. Later this year, coins will come out that honor the second, third, and fourth presidents -- John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison.

The new \$1 coins are gold colored. On one side, each coin will have a president's name, picture, the years he was president, and which number president he was. The other side of the coin will show the Statue of Liberty and the words United States of America. The new dollar coin will also have writing on the edge of the coin. This is the first time U.S. coins will have writing on the edges in about 70 years.

NEWS WORD BOX

familiar honor elected
edge government mint

There are a few reasons for the new coins. The government wants to honor all the presidents with nice-looking coins. Also, officials are hoping that people will not just collect the coins but start using them as they shop. Coins last much longer than paper bills. If more people use the \$1 coins, the government can print fewer \$1 bills.

MORE FACTS ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL DOLLARS

- Only one president will get two coins -- Grover Cleveland. He was the 24th and 26th president.
- A past president cannot appear on a coin until he has been dead for two years. The last president to get a coin will be Gerald Ford, who died in December 2006. His coin will be issued in 2016.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

If you were asked to suggest someone from history to appear on a coin, who would you choose? Explain your choice.