

# U.S. Penny to Get Four New Designs



For nearly 100 years, President Abraham Lincoln's profile has been on the front of the U.S. penny. While the penny's front will remain the same, the U.S. Mint has created four new designs for the coin's back side. The changes to the penny will be made to mark the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth and the 100th anniversary of the Lincoln penny.

The four designs show stages of Lincoln's life. A new design will be issued every three months during 2009, starting February 12, Lincoln's birthday. The new designs, in the order they will be issued, will show

- a log cabin of the kind in which Lincoln was born near Hodgenville, Kentucky, in 1809.
- a teenage Lincoln sitting on a log and reading a book with an ax next to him, to show how he educated himself while working as a rail-splitter in Indiana.
- Lincoln as a young man in front of the Illinois capitol building, where he served in the Illinois state legislature.
- the U.S. Capitol being built during the time when Lincoln was president.

## NEWS WORD BOX

profile anniversary  
issued educated  
design legislature

The words on the back of the penny will remain the same: "United States of America," "E Pluribus Unum" (Latin for "from many, one"), and "One Cent."

Lincoln was the 16th president of the U.S. He is remembered most for freeing the slaves and for leading the country during the U.S. Civil War, from 1861-1865.

## MORE FACTS ABOUT THE LINCOLN PENNY

- The first Lincoln penny was issued in 1909. From 1859 to 1909, U.S. pennies had a picture of a Native American princess on the front.
- The last time the back of the penny was changed was in 1959. The U.S. Mint replaced images of wheat with a picture of the Lincoln Memorial.

## THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Some people think the U.S. should stop using pennies.  
Each penny now costs nearly 2 cents to make!  
What do you think? Does it make "cents" to give up the penny?