

Dollar Bill Design

An Art Lesson for Grades 3, 4 and 5 (Week of May 11th)



The \$1 Federal Reserve note was issued in 1963, and its design—featuring President George Washington and the Great Seal of the United States—remains unchanged. Before a Federal Reserve note enters circulation, it must pass through four critical steps: design, order, production, and issuance.

U.S. currency begins with the design process, which is a collaborative effort between the Federal Reserve, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and the U.S. Secret Service. The Secretary of the Treasury has final approval of designs of Federal Reserve notes.

Your job, as the Designer, will be to create a brand new look for the US \$1 bill. Although you are creating a whole new look, you should include some familiar lettering/wording, numbers and images so that your design will look recognizable as a \$1 bill once completed.

For this activity you will need green construction paper (plain white paper can be used instead and colored lightly with green crayon or colored pencil), scissors, pencil, eraser, ruler, black marker.



Steps for completion:

1. Draw a large rectangle with a ruler and pencil on green or white paper.
2. Cut out the rectangle.
3. Lightly draw images, letters, numbers, lines, shapes with pencil
4. Trace over all pencil lines with black marker.
5. Decide what parts of the overall image might be filled in with black.

Lots of things to consider:

- Make your dollar bill larger than a real dollar bill so you'll have an easier time adding the details.
- Will you make a self portrait in the center or will you have a different person?
- Be sure to show lots of words and numbers using a variety of fonts and sizes.

- Will the numbers have personal meaning? Birthday? Ages of family members? Lucky numbers?
- Can you incorporate some of your activities or things that interest you in your design?
- Although your design does not have to be perfectly symmetrical, consider putting some of the same images, numbers etc. on both the left and right sides.
- Think about balancing out what you add. Don't add too many things on one side and too few on the other.
- Don't go overboard! Adding too much to your design will make it unclear and hard to understand.

Vocabulary

Detail, Design, Symmetry, Balance, Self Portrait