The Story of the Dollar

with curator Karen Lee

Podcast Link: http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/dollar.mp3

Discussion Questions
The following questions can be used for in-class discussion or short written responses from students after listening to the podcast.

- Think about the last time you or your parents bought something. What did you use—cash, credit card, debit card, check? What intrinsic value does each of those items hold? What value does it represent?
- Examine the symbols on a coin (as a class, individually; American or foreign coins). Look at the symbols. What are they? What image of its country of origin does it represent?
- Think about how money has changed over our nation’s history, how might we use and handle money in the future?

Related Resources from the National Museum of American History
Legendary Coins and Currency: Online Exhibition
http://americanhistory.si.edu/coins/flash/exhibition.shtml

Related Thinkfinity Resources
Money is What Money Does—from EconEdLink

The Changing Face of Money—from EconEdLink

Related National Standards for U.S. History (National Center for History in the Schools)
Era 2: Postwar United States (1945 to early 1970s)
3A: Explain the development of an Atlantic economy in the colonial period.
Era 10: Contemporary United States (1968 to the present)
2A: The student understands economic patterns since 1968.

Have your students email their question, comments, and discoveries to thinkfinity@si.edu
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Listen to the podcast. Take notes and answer the questions.

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