Narrator 1:  
**One Cent, Two Cents, Old Cent, New Cent**
By Bonnie Worth

Narrator 2:  
I’m the Cat in the Hat
and you know something funny?
We’re about to have fun
learning all about money!

Narrator 3:  
Where does it come from?
Can you answer that, please?
I will give you a hint:
It does not grow on trees!

Narrator 4:  
Just one penny each
it will cost you to see
the Museum of Money.
Step up and pay me!

Narrator 5:  
People bartered to buy things
in ancient times.
They did not have pennies,
or nickels, or dimes.

Narrator 6:  
This meant that a beekeeper
might want to swap
his store of honey
for a farmer’s wheat crop.

Narrator 1:  
If the farmer liked honey,
a deal could be struck.
If the farmer liked jam,
it was the keeper’s bad luck.

Narrator 2:  
People would fight
over deals that they made.
Was this a good swap?
Did I make a fair trade?
Narrator 3: Perhaps that is why money was invented. It was easier to use and decay was prevented.

Narrator 4: It was easy to carry and count, and what's more, it was easy to save and was easy to store.

Narrator 5: What's an old form of money? I'm so glad you asked me. I'll give you a hint: it came from the sea.

Narrator 6: Seashells were used to barter and trade. A handful of shells and you had it made!

Narrator 1: Feathers and eggs and leather and jade are some other things from which money was made.

Narrator 2: But eggs could get scrambled and leather got dirty. Money needed to last and be solid and sturdy.

Narrator 3: So people mined ore—copper, silver, and gold. They melted it down, poured it into a mold.

Narrator 4: In the shape of a bar these ingots were made. Folks hauled them around and would use them in trade.
Narrator 5: In the kingdom of Lydia, part of Turkey, you see, the Lydians made ingots in 900 BC.

Narrator 6: Then someone in Lydia had a brainstorm: Make metal coins! (A far handier form!)

Narrator 1: We've dug up these coins all over the place. Each coin has a lion's head stamped on its face.

Narrator 2: The Lydians were sailors, and you may have read that's how the use of their coins might have spread.

Narrator 3: Here is a fact I am happy to tell you: Folks other places began to make coins, too.

Narrator 4: In China, the farthest of Far Eastern places, some coins shaped like cowries had lines on their faces.

Narrator 5: Other coins contained holes for a string to pass through. So coins could be carried together with you.

Narrator 6: A string of such coins added up to a cache. You tied up the string on a belt or a sash.
Narrator 1: In Greece, they stamped coins with various things, like a picture of Pegasus, the horse who had wings.

Narrator 2: This coin has an owl on its face, and my guess is it stood for Athena, the wisest goddess.

Narrator 3: Now even today some heads of state put their heads onto coins like Caesar the great.

Narrator 4: Here is a fact that we think is so neat. Money's made in a mint. (Not the kind that you eat!)

Narrator 5: Thing One and Thing Two are about to mint dimes. Mints work much the same as in ancient times.

Narrator 6: How to Make a Dime One Step at a Time! (This is brought to you by Thing One and Thing Two!)

Narrator 1: 1. Heat metals together until they are hot and melted to goop inside of the pot.

Narrator 2: 2. Pour goop in a cast, also known as a mold. 3. Strike goop with an image before it turns cold.
Narrator 3: 4. Remove from the cast.
(Oh, isn’t this funny?)
Time to have fun with
your shiny new money!

Narrator 4: Ancients kept money where
they prayed and gave thanks.
In this way the temples
became the first banks.

Narrator 5: To temple you went
to save or to borrow
for as long as two years
or as short as tomorrow.

Narrator 6: Interest is the name
for the fee that you owe
to the bank for the money
they loan you, you know.

Narrator 1: When your money is saved
in a savings account,
the bank then pays you
a smallish amount.

Narrator 2: This smallish amount
that the bank pays to you
is the interest you’ve earned,
and it’s only your due.

Narrator 3: The smallest coin ever
is so hard to see!
(See the Indian fanam
next to that BB?)

Narrator 4: You would think that they might
lose count of their hoard,
but dents in some wood
make a neat counting board.
Narrator 5: From the islands of Yap come the heaviest ones: Limestone coins eight feet wide, each weighing three tons!

Narrator 6: Carrying these coins, some Yap ships sank. Could you fit a Yap coin in your piggy bank?

Narrator 1: Traveling to parts of the New World with me here are some Spanish coins I would like you to see.

Narrator 2: Spain’s explorers sent home from the New World as freight golden doubloons and pieces of eight.

Narrator 3: The most valuable coins in those parts were these. To steal them, some pirates sailed all seven seas.

Narrator 4: American settlers minted coins such as these, stamped with the image of local trees.

Narrator 5: For money, the natives strung seashells and beads into belts of wampum for their trading needs.

Narrator 6: When it became a new nation and free, the United States minted its own currency.
Narrator 1: I have some with me (as you see, I have many). The kind that I have is the little red penny.

Narrator 2: It was made in the year seventeen ninety-three. Here's one that's a half-cent you might like to see!

Narrator 3: Here is another one. It's also red. It's the penny we know as the Indian Head.

Narrator 4: In nineteen oh nine (that's the year I am thinkin'), we began to mint pennies with the face of Abe Lincoln.

Narrator 5: During World War Two (a brave time, I do feel), pennies were made out of zinc-coated steel.

Narrator 6: We needed the copper for wartime, but then after the war we used copper again.

Narrator 1: Some pennies I've shown you from so long ago are worth nearly one thousand dollars or so!

Narrator 2: Here is a great word you can add to your list: A collector of coins is a numismatist!
Narrator 3: Pennies to dollars . . .
we mint the whole range
But mostly we use all
these coins to make change.

Narrator 4: It’s paper that’s king,
but paper gets rotten,
so we make paper money
from linen and cotton.

Narrator 5: When you study your money
(and these days, who bothers?),
you will find on it faces
of our nation’s fathers.

Narrator 6: What’s the dollar sign mean?
Could it be? Take a guess!
Does it come from a U
printed under an S?

Narrator 1: My numismatist friend
has told me of late
it might come from the
Spanish pieces of eight.

Narrator 2: On the ten thousand bill
you will find the face
of Abe Lincoln’s treasurer,
Salmon Portland Chase!

Narrator 3: Will you find one around?
No, you probably won’t.
They no longer print bills
of this size. No, they don’t.

Narrator 4: If they print them again,
do you think maybe that
they might use the face of . . .

All: . . . the Cat in the Hat?!?