

Lesson 6: “Change” Over Time

Unit 1
Grade 4

Warm Up

Think about yourself yesterday (past) and today (present). What changed?

Think about yourself today (present) and tomorrow (future). What is likely to change?

Resource 1: Me Changing

Name _____

Directions: Describe things about you in the past, present and future that will show how you have changed, and think you will change in the future.

Me in the Past	Me Today (Present)	Me in the Future

Today we are going to learn about change and the Lincoln penny.



Work with your partner to answer the three questions on your worksheet.



Resource 2: Three Lincoln Pennies

Name _____

Directions: look at the images of the three pennies below then answer questions 1-3.

Some Change - Three Lincoln Pennies



1. What changed?

2. Why might it have changed?

3. What stayed the same?



What stayed the same?

What changed?

Why might it have changed?

- Notice the dates on the pennies. What big events happened in the 1940s?
- What things are made in especially large numbers during wartime?
- What do you think these wartime materials might have been made out of?
- How much of these materials would be needed during a war as big as a WORLD war?
- How might your answers to these questions explain why they changed the composition in 1942?



What was the penny made out of from 1942-1944

- 1942 bronze (95% copper, 5% tin and zinc)
- 1943 zinc-coated steel (also known as steel penny)
- 1944 brass (95% copper, 5% zinc)



The U.S. put a pause on making copper pennies in 1943, and switched to zinc-coated steel.

- Change from 1942-1943: The US mint page states, "in 1943, the coin's composition was changed to zinc-coated steel. This change was only for the year 1943 and was due to the critical use of copper for the war effort." The copper was used to make ammunition and other military equipment.
- Change from 1943-1944: the change to the "steel" penny produced unanticipated consequences that led to public outcry. The new penny was often mistaken for a dime, created problems in vending machines, and sweat from fingers rusted the new metal. A new alloy made using copper scraps from shell casings resulted in a new penny only one year after the "steel" penny was introduced.



Change happens every day. It is one of the most important things that historians study and that you will be studying this year in social studies.

By anticipating change, we will be better prepared to respond to it.