



Activity: Penny Wars!

Background:

During World War II, copper was a vital war material for ammunition and military equipment. Since copper was at such a high demand, the US Treasury started to make steel pennies in 1943. How do you distinguish a steel from copper penny? In addition to their difference in color, the steel penny can be picked up by a magnet!



As a nod to the WWII steel penny, challenge your class to a penny war. This one-week competition will motivate students to fundraise for a cause using the change in their pockets. All money earned can go towards buying more recycling bins for the school or even a tree to plant on school property. You can even have your students vote on what cause they'd like to contribute the funds.

Point Value:

12 points

Key Themes:



Math



Teamwork

Procedure:

1. Divide your class into two groups. Or, if there are multiple classes in the school participating, your classes can compete against one-another.
2. Each group will be provided water jugs or large jars for bringing in pennies. During the week, both groups will bring in as many pennies as they can and place them into their team jar. The group with the most pennies wins. To detract from other team's totals, students can bring in nickels, dimes, and quarters to put into the opposing team's jar. These will add towards the whole total raised but will detract from the specific class.
3. At the end of the week, have the students add up all of the change.
4. All money earned can go towards the cause of your choice.

Materials:

Provided by you and/or student:

- Water jug or jar
- change (quarters, dimes, nickels, pennies)