



Lesson Plan: Dollar Detective

Brighter Idea - Try This at Home

Take a closer look at a dollar bill and learn more about it!

In this activity you will need:

Supplies

- * \$1 dollar bill
- * Magnifying glass (optional)

Instructions

- 1** Look at the front of your dollar bill, the side with the president. Find the long line of green numbers and letters. This is the bill's serial number. Each bill has its own unique number. You can track your bill at www.wheresgeorge.com
- 2** Next, find the big black number. It is printed in four places on the bill. (On some bills, this might also be a letter.) This tells you where the bill was printed. There are twelve federal reserve banks that print the money in the U.S. Each number or letter stands for one of those twelve banks.
- 3** Finally, look to the right, next to the bottom of George Washington's portrait. There will be the word "series" with a year underneath it. That is the year the bill was printed.

What's this all about?

People use dollar bills every day and they often travel great distances. By looking closely at some of the information on a dollar bill, you can learn where and when the dollar was made and how far it has traveled.