

Name: _____ Date: _____

“Should We Get Rid of the Penny?” Quiz

Directions: Read “Should We Get Rid of the Penny?” Then answer the questions below.

1. Which line from the article does not support the claim that making pennies is wasteful?

- (A) “Add it all up, and the government loses half a cent for each of the billions of pennies it produces every year . . .” (p. 16)
- (B) “Then there is the fact that making pennies wastes zinc and copper.” (p. 16)
- (C) “America’s pennies are born at the U.S. Mint . . .” (p. 16)
- (D) “Shouldn’t we limit our use of zinc and copper to products people actually use?” (p. 16)

2. The author writes, “Who would lug 1,000 pennies to the movies when they could bring a \$10 bill?” What literary device is he using?

- (A) hyperbole
- (B) rhetorical question
- (C) metaphor
- (D) symbolism

3. The purpose of the literary device you chose in Question 2 is

- (A) to emphasize how inconvenient pennies are.
- (B) to convince readers that pennies are useful.
- (C) to encourage readers to think about how they spend their money.
- (D) to show that some people still use pennies to pay for things.

4. The example about the hot dog vendor on page 17 helps you understand

- (A) why getting rid of the penny could hurt business.
- (B) why the penny is useful.
- (C) how items could cost more without pennies.
- (D) how much a hot dog costs.

5. Which line refutes (disproves) the claim that getting rid of the penny would have a major impact on prices?

- (A) “Oddly, it costs the Mint more than a penny to produce a penny.” (p. 16)
- (B) “Prices would have to be rounded to the nearest nickel.” (p. 17)
- (C) “That might not sound bad, but those tiny increases could add up.” (p. 17)
- (D) “Then again, Canada minted its last one-cent coin in 2012, and prices there have not gone up enough to cause problems.” (p. 17)

6. Which claim could NOT be supported with information from the article?

- (A) Using pennies is inconvenient.
- (B) Making pennies is costly.
- (C) Most Americans want to get rid of the penny.
- (D) Pennies are important to charities.

Constructed-Response Questions

Directions: Write your answers to the questions below on the back of this paper or type them up on a computer.

7. What idea about pennies does the cartoon on page 16 express? Explain your answer.

8. Consider how the author begins the article. Why might he have included the detail about the price of candy in the 1900s? What point was he trying to make? Explain your answer.