

the Little buffalos Savings Club



Quarterly Newsletter for Kids

Why Do Some Coins Have Ridges?

If you look at the coins around your house, or maybe in your pocket, you'll notice something: dimes and quarters have ridges on the edge. But why? First off, those edges aren't ridged, they are *reeded*. And the history of those edges goes all the way back to the era of the Roman Empire.

Theft Prevention

Reeded edges were first used in coin making to prevent theft. How does putting a texture on the edge of a coin keep it from being stolen from your pocket? It doesn't.

Coins weigh a set amount. Nowadays coins don't have much value themselves, but back in the day, the coins themselves had value because they were made of precious metals. The different designs made it easy to tell how much they were worth based on the metal used to make them. People could assume they had the right weight without bringing out a scale.

The problem was, people would shave metal off the edge, lightening the coins they had and leaving metal left over to make into new coins or sell by weight. Reeding prevented this. If a coin didn't have the reeded texture around the edge, the coin was shaved and worth less.



Telling Coins Apart

We've kept the reeded edges on coins today because it helps people with vision impairments or low vision know what coins they have. Not only are coins all different sizes, but the similar-sized coins have reeded edges to help tell them apart. Dimes could be mistaken for a penny if they didn't have the reeded edges.

And there you have it, an ancient idea that has modern uses.

Interior FCU Coin Machine

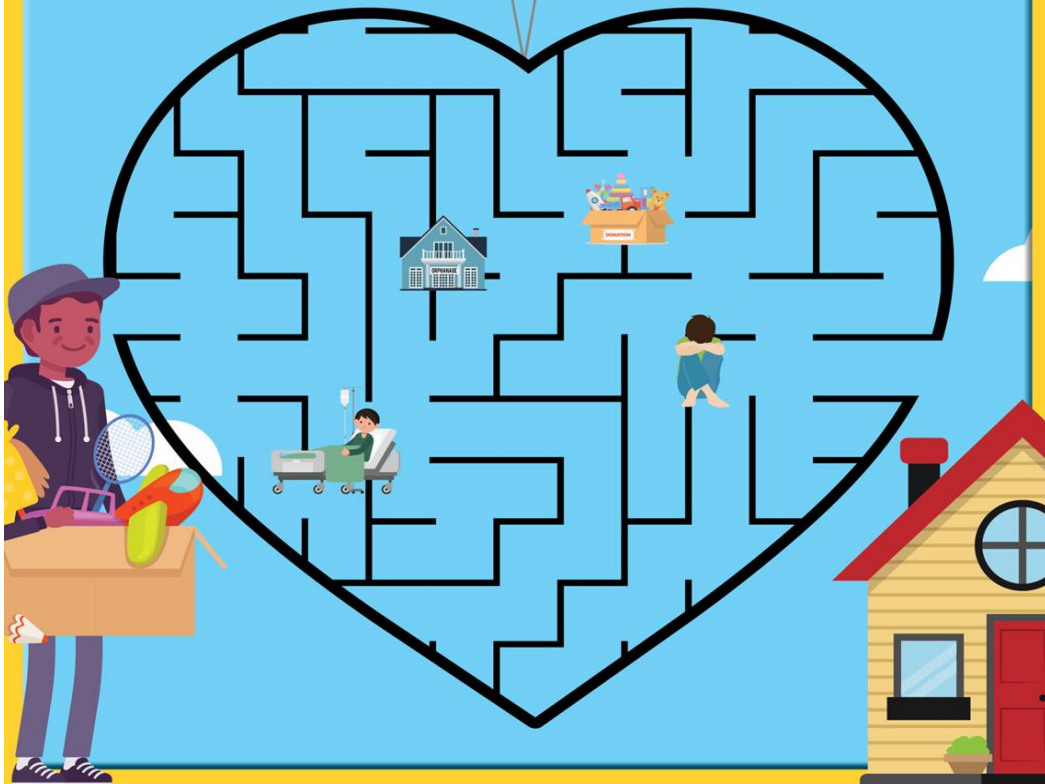
When your piggy bank is full of coins, come on down to an [Interior FCU Branch](#) and use our coin machine. The machine will use similar weight mechanisms to weigh your coins and give you the same amount of money back in cash.



Name: _____

THE GIFT OF GIVING

Adam wants to share some of his toys with children who have less than him. Can you help him share while finding his way home?



Ask your parents to help you open an accumulator certificate. Only \$50 is required to open, and then you can watch your savings grow! If this is your first accumulator certificate, we will send you a stuffed little buffalo!

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