Show Me the Money Scavenger Hunt

In the ancient Greek and Roman world, coins were an important tool for trade. Just like today, coins were used to buy things like food and materials and to pay wages. Also like today, coins were usually decorated with images that told you who was responsible for creating the coin (the king, the state, the emperor). The art on ancient coins was also an important tool for civic identity, political propaganda, and demonstrating authority.

In this scavenger hunt, we would like you to collect four different coins from around your house. They can be US or foreign coins. Then, explore the following online Kelsey exhibitions to find examples of ancient coins

- Urban Biographies
- Excavating Archaeology
- Less Than Perfect
- Pearls of Wisdom
- Rocks, Paper, Memory

Compare the ancient coins with the ones you found at home and answer the following questions.

1) What are some of the similarities between the modern coins and the ancient coins? Think about size, shape, decorations.

2) What are some of the differences?

3) What do you think about the culture that created the ancient coins you found? What do the images on their coins say to you?

4) What do you think archaeologists in 1,000 years will think of the images on our modern coins? What do you think they will think about our culture(s) based on these coins?