

Why Are Presidents On Money?

Reading Time: 5 minutes

If you live in the United States, you've probably wondered at least once why dead presidents are on our currency. This is part of a life-long tradition in which we have honored important people in our history by giving them a place on our currency.

Even if that's the case, several questions still need to be answered. Why aren't any living presidents on American currency?

Has there ever been a living person on a coin or dollar bill? How did this tradition start?

Well, this article is meant to answer all of these questions and help you understand better why some of our most famous presidents have been immortalized on American money.

Why Are Dead Presidents on American Currency?

This is a tradition that we have integrated into our culture, but back in the day, it was considered an insult to "honor" living people by putting them into currency. This is why even George Washington said no after being offered to put his image on the first silver dollar.

Instead, coins with Lady Liberty and The American Eagle were minted as the nation's official currency. But as time has gone on and presidents have passed, their likeness can now be found on US currency.

First President on a U.S. Coin

The first president to ever be featured on a U.S. coin was Abraham Lincoln in 1909, 100 years after his birth. It was called "The Lincoln Cent," and it was supposed to commemorate the life of this famous American president.

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of America. He led the country through the Civil War and helped to defeat the Confederacy.

However, he is most remembered for advocating for the abolition of slavery during his entire political career.

Only Dead People Can Appear on U.S. Currency

It is written in our federal law that only people who have been dead for at least two years can appear in our currency, which is why it is nearly impossible to find a living person who has been featured on our official coinage. Nonetheless, it isn't impossible, as Congress can issue a law to make an exception.

The United State's first coin was minted in 1793, but it might be surprising to hear that the first people to be featured on our currency weren't even Americans. In 1892 the state minted coins with the faces of Christopher Columbus and Queen Isabella of Spain to honor the 400th anniversary of America's discovery.

Still, you don't have to be a president to be featured on a coin, as historical figures have also had the honor to be on the official currency. Some of these people have been Susan B.

