

Design your own Roman coin

There is more to a Roman coin than first meets the eye! As well as being used to buy things, coins were an important publicity tool for the emperor. They showed people what the emperor looked like and often celebrated important victories or other achievements.

Below you can see what emperor Hadrian (AD117-138) chose to put on his coin. What would you put on your coin if you were emperor?

Use the template on the back of this sheet to draw your design.

What does your Roman coin need?

Your portrait. This will be seen by thousands across the Empire, so pick your best side!

Your name. The most important part!

A symbolic image. Pick something that best represents you or symbolises one of your achievements.

Some common titles found on Roman coins. You could pick one of these or you could create your own.

Title	Meaning	Abbreviation to use
Augustus or Augusta	Name of the first emperor and used as a title by other emperors	AVG
Caesar	Family name of Julius Caesar and used as a title by other emperors	C or CAES
Imperator	Commander, commander-in-chief, or victorious general	IMP
Pater Patriae	Father of his Country	P P
Pius Felix	Dutiful to the gods and blessed by them	P F
Senatus Populus Que Romanus	The Senate and People of Rome	SPQR

These titles are all in Latin, the language of the Roman Empire.

Ancestral name. Link yourself to a powerful former emperor to prove your right to rule!

Your titles. Let everybody know how important you are by listing your many, many titles. You might need to abbreviate to make them fit!



OBVERSE ('heads')



REVERSE ('tails')

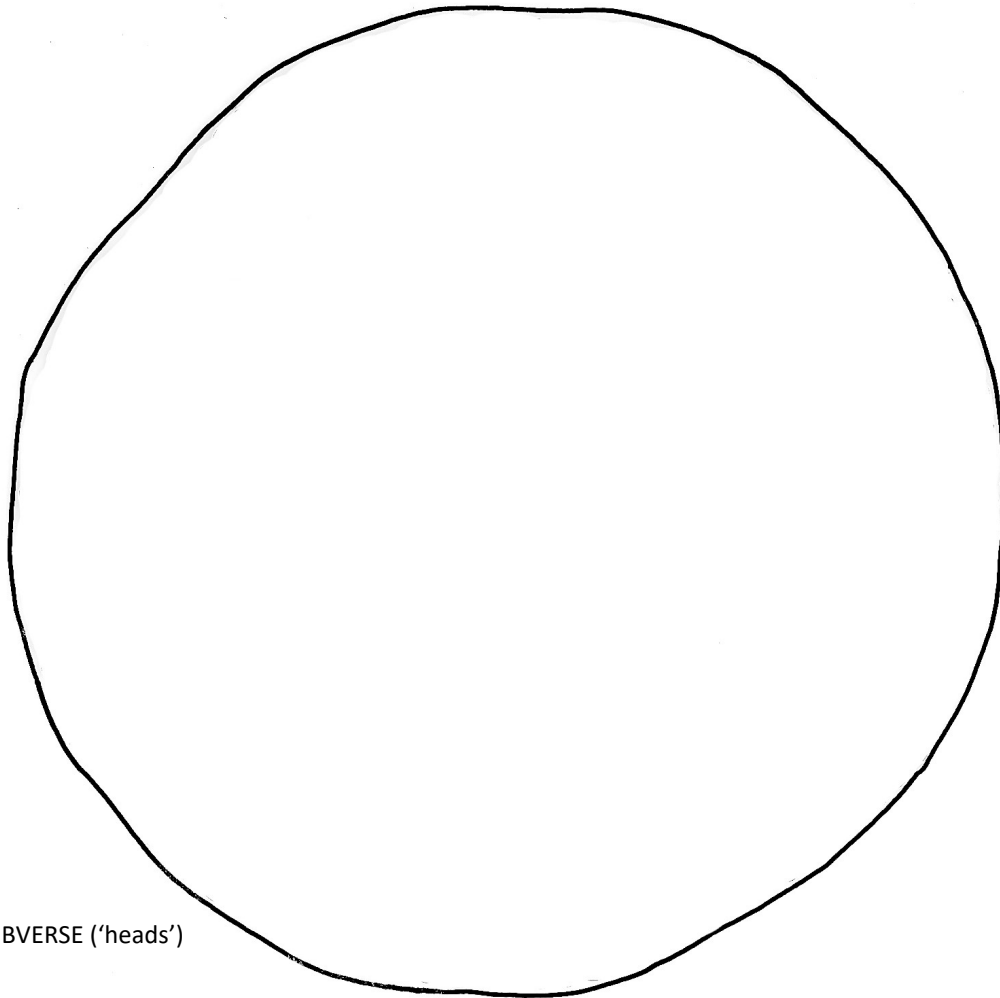
More titles! You can never have too many and you've probably run out of space on the obverse. You could also put the name of a god or goddess, a place, or a victory here.

What's in a symbol? Emperors used the reverse of the coin to say something about themselves. On this coin, Hadrian has chosen the figure of Pax who represents peace. Other emperors chose their favourite gods or goddesses. Some chose military or religious symbols, or something relating to one of their victories. The wolf and twins image was also popular because it represents the foundation of Rome, capital of the Roman Empire. [What would you like your coin to say about you?](#)

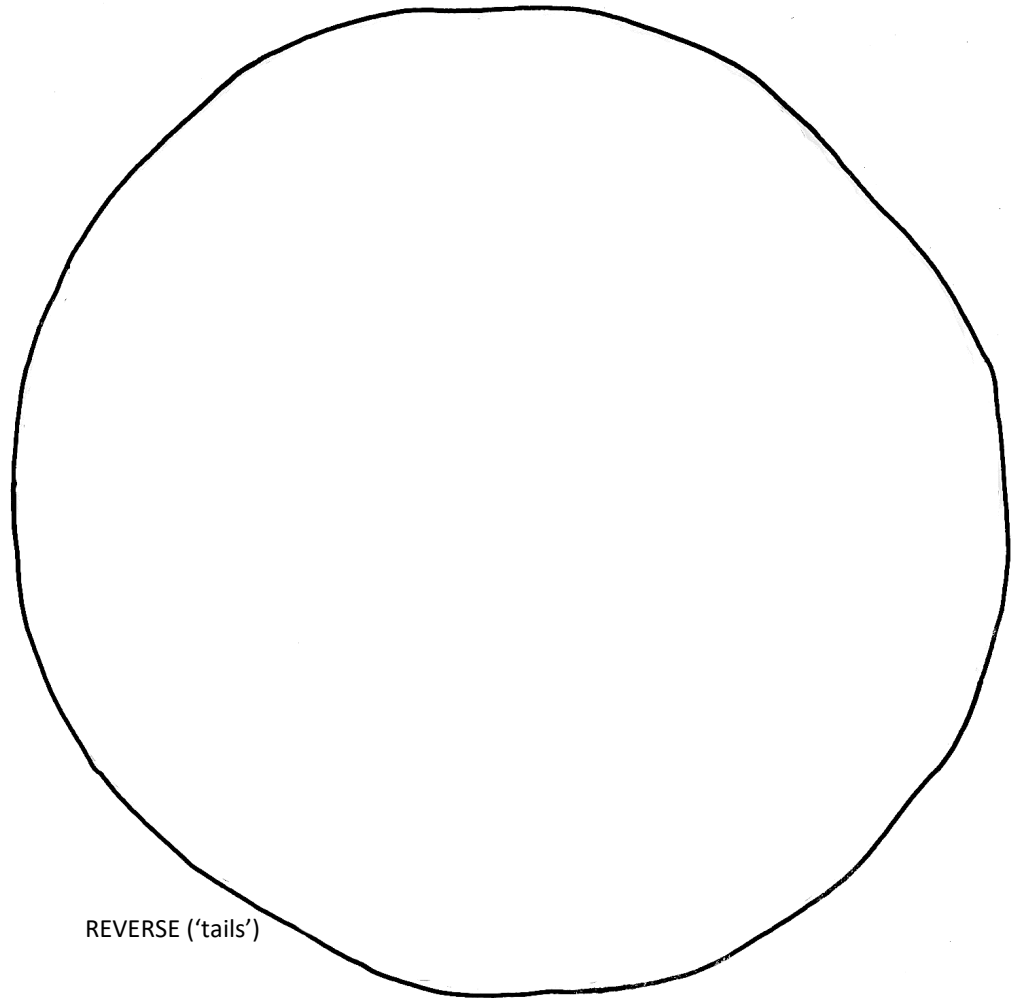
Silver *denarius* of minted in

(your name here)

(your town/village here)



OBVERSE ('heads')



REVERSE ('tails')

You can use this space to tell people about what the symbols on your coin mean: