Mystery Money

Activity

Moolissa the cow has four mystery coins in her piggy bank. Two of the coins are identical and the other two coins are unique. What are some possible amounts of money could the cow could have?

To support:

- Identify the meaning of identical and unique.
- Review what coins you have in your money systems and how their values can be written.
- Provide students with coin manipulatives so that they can physically explore possible coin combinations.



To challenge

Students could...

- Identify the biggest possible total or the smallest possible total.
- Identify all of the possible answers.
- Write the money totals in decimal form if applicable.
- Explore how the answer might be different depending on what country the cow is in.
  - Students could pick a country, research if they have coins in their money system and then try to find a solution.

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Moolissa has 4 mystery coins hidden in her piggy bank. 2 of the coins are identical. The other 2 coins are unique. How many different money totals could she have?



What if... there were 5 coins and 3 of the coins were unique?

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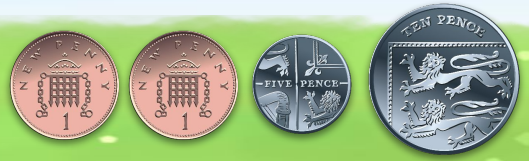
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Solution

The answer will be different depending on what country you live in and what money system you have! I live in Scotland where we use pounds and pence. Here is the biggest amount of money I could have and the smallest amount of money.







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