

**12 POINTS****ACTIVITY:**

# PENNY WARS

*(Image: Library of Congress, LC-DIG-fsa-8b07566.)*

## INTRODUCTION

During World War II, copper was a vital war material for ammunition and military equipment. Since copper was at such a high demand, the US Treasury started to make steel pennies in 1943. How do you distinguish steel from copper pennies? In addition to their difference in color, the steel penny is magnetic and a magnet can pick it up!

As a nod to the WWII steel penny, challenge your class to a penny war. This one-week competition will motivate students to fundraise for a cause using the change in their pockets. All money earned can go towards buying more recycling bins for the school or even towards planting a tree on school property. You can even have your students vote on contributing their funds to a specific cause.

## MATERIALS

+ Water jug or jar

+ Change (quarters, dimes, nickels, pennies)

## PROCEDURES

1. Divide your class into two groups. Or if there are multiple classes in the school participating, your classes can compete against one-another.
2. Each group should use water jugs or large jars for gathering pennies that have been brought in. During the week, both groups will bring in as many pennies as they can and will place them into each team's jar. The group with the most pennies wins. To detract from the totals of the other teams, students can bring in nickels, dimes, and quarters to put into an opposing team's jar. These extra coins will count towards the total amount raised, but will detract from the total of a specific group.
3. At the end of the week, have the students add up all of the change.
4. All money earned can go towards the cause of their choice.

## TIME REQUIREMENT

1 class period

## KEY THEMES



MATH



TEAMWORK