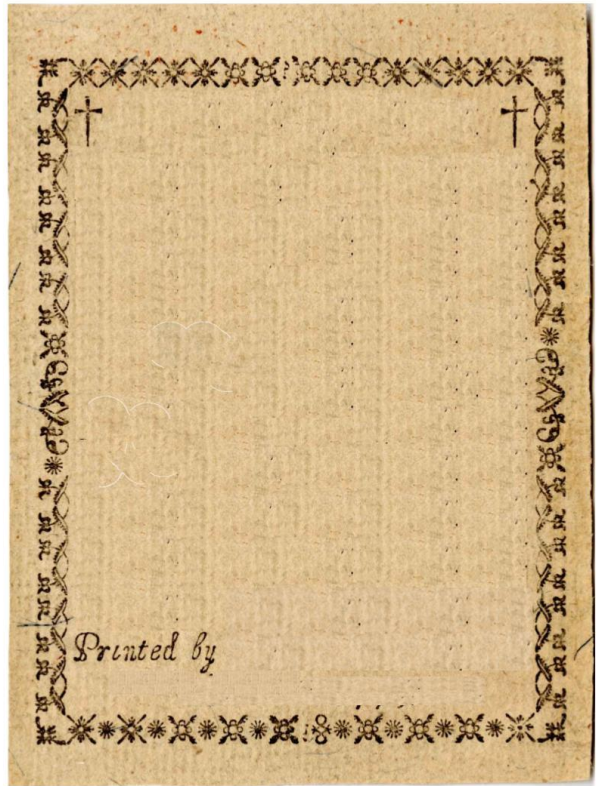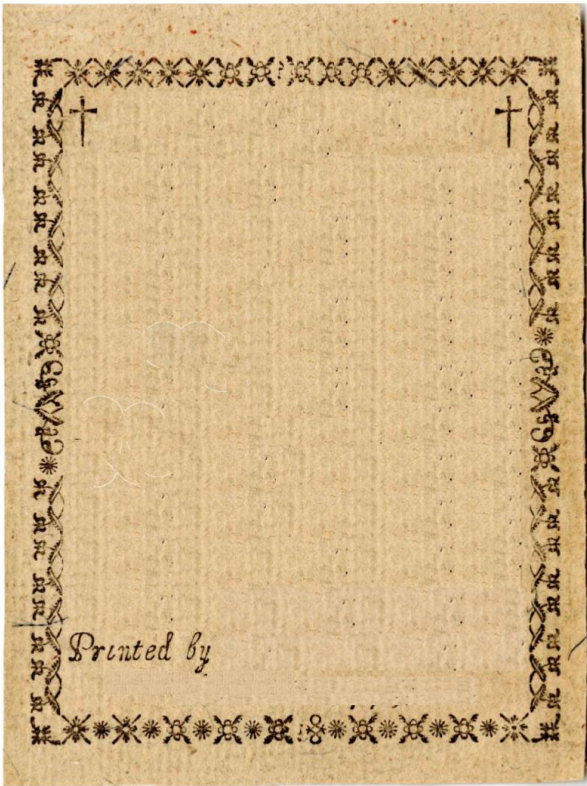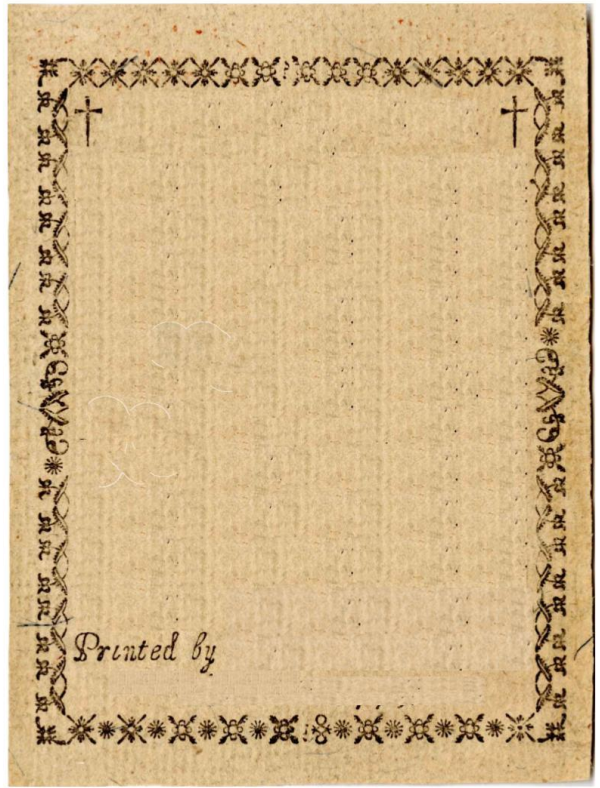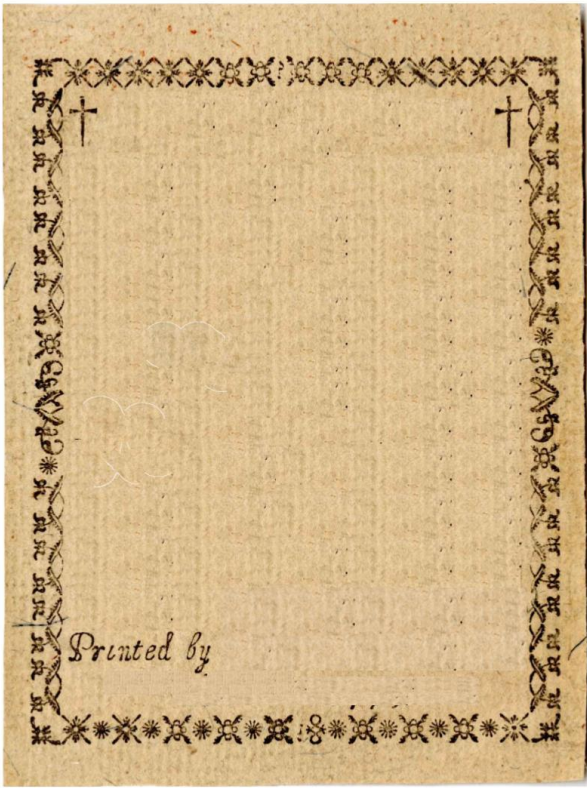# Making Money

Time:
- 5 minutes

Suggested Materials:
- Pencils
- Stamps (letters and numbers)
- Markers
- Currency template (or coffee filter)
- Scissors
- Ink pads

Instructions:
1. Print out currency templates.
   a. Or, get a coffee filter and draw/cut out a 4.5" (length) by 3" (width) rectangle.
2. Decide which denomination (money amount) you would like to show.
3. If you have stamps, pick the letters and numbers you will use.
   a. If you only have markers, make bubble letters and numbers.
4. Decorate with whatever images you think should go on money.
   a. If you were making money for your own country, what images or symbols would be important to show?
5. Cut out your piece of currency.
6. Make sure you write who made it and the year it was made at the bottom.
7. Think how you can make your money unique so people can't counterfeit it.
8. Compare your money with ones here in the US and those around the world.

Extra Information:
- Benjamin Franklin did not just print newspapers, he was also in charge of creating and producing colonial, and later federal, money for the US.
  ○ When producing money, they had to make sure people couldn't easily make counterfeit (fake) bills.
  ○ Franklin printed leaves of plants onto his currency! Each leaf was distinct, so it was very hard to recreate those exact details by hand.
  ○ It took until the 1900s for people to figure out Franklin's leaf printing technique.
  ○ He used a special font or type on the bills as well.
- Franklin only shared his secret technique for printing money with his partner, David Hall, who would also print money for the government.
- Today, the government uses watermarks, color changing ink, and more, to stop people from creating counterfeit (fake) money.
- Each nation's currency is distinctly tied to their history and shows what they consider important. Over time, images change on currency as we re-evaluate what symbols are important to honor and as anti-counterfeiting technology improves.

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