

Technology at the Bank

Synergy Bank uses some awesome gadgets to make sure our customers get the best service possible. You may have never even seen some of the items that make banking possible.

Each time a check is brought into the bank, our tellers use a scanner to store a copy and put the money in the proper account. The scanners are so smart that they even know the account number at the bottom of each check.



Coin Counter (Above)
Drive Up Camera (Below)



Check Scanner



We also use machines to count large amounts of money. The biggest of those is our coin counter. The size of a small refrigerator, our coin counter can count hundreds of dollars in very little time. Imagine trying to count that much money on your own.

We like to make sure we see who we are speaking to. If you go to the drive up for service, then we can still see you through our cameras. The best part is that you can see us too.

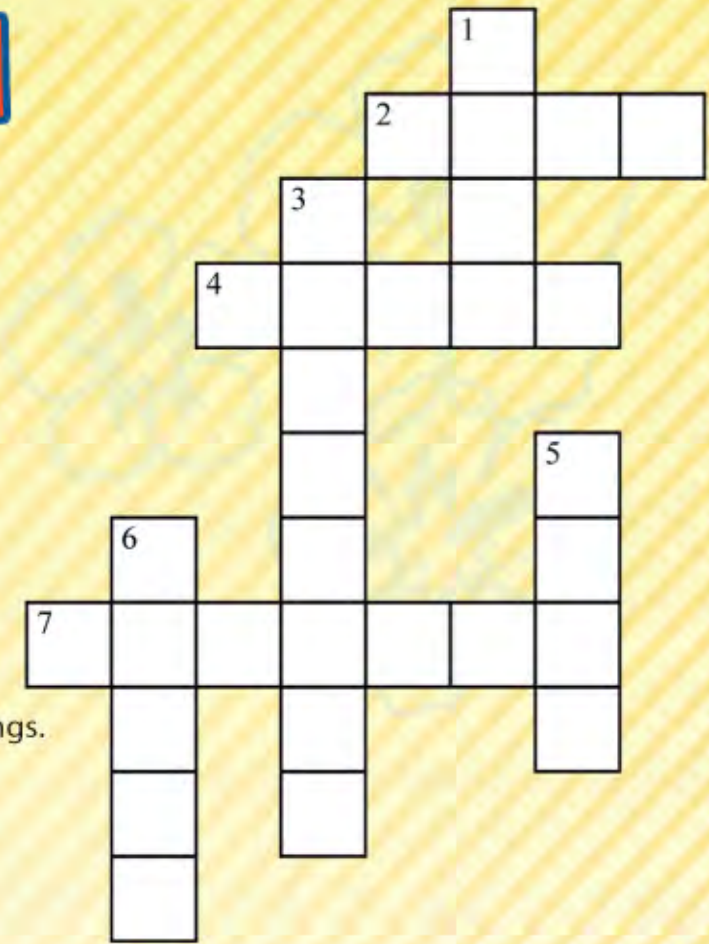
Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 2) The color of the new Presidential dollar coins.
- 4) A coin and Synergy's favorite pelican.
- 7) An account you save money in.

DOWN

- 1) Banks give these to customers to help purchase things.
- 3) _____ cameras help keep the bank safe.
- 5) What you might get from a teller.
- 6) Where the bank keeps money.



Coins Can Make Saving Fun

In 1998, the United States Mint began honoring our Nation's Presidents by circulating one dollar gold coins featuring the images of each President. The coins were released in the order in which they served in office. Each year four new coins will be debuted concluding with our 38th President, Gerald Ford. The Statue of Liberty is on the back of each coin.

You can collect each coin as it begins circulation as a way to save. Just saving one of each President would give you \$38; two of each would be \$76. You can always come into the bank and swap a \$1 bill or some change for a gold coin.

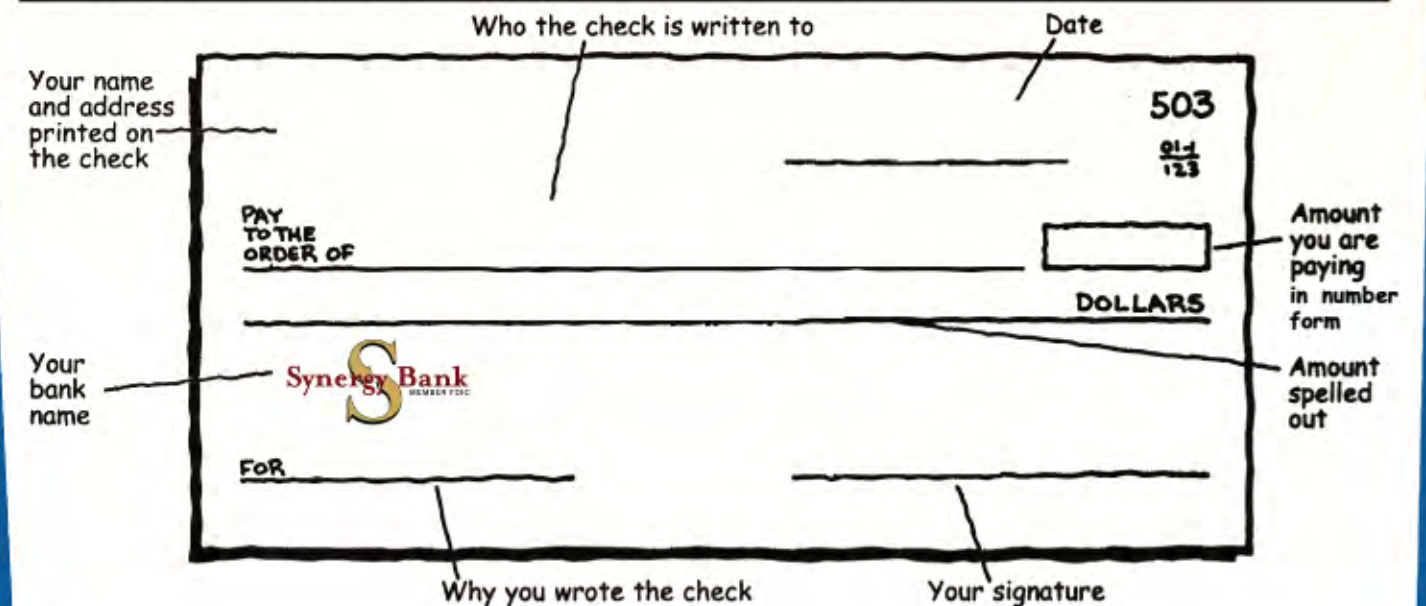
Can you identify the Presidents on these four coins? HINT: Each coin tells you when he served.



Look for the solution at www.banksynergy.com/penny

How to Write a Check

One of the most common accounts at a bank is a checking account. Customers use these accounts to store their money, but then use the money to make purchases. Rather than carry large amounts of cash, customers can write a check. You can write your own check below. Just follow the directions for each section. Remember to always sign your checks!



Parents Corner

Do you think your child spends too much time on the internet? If so, then perhaps you just need to put a good spin on it. There are plenty of educational games on the internet that teach kids life lessons without them really knowing. Often times learning is as "uncool" to a kid as eating their vegetables; so, try to make it fun!

The United States Mint has a great web site (www.usmint.gov/kids) that teaches kids about money through interactive games. They can learn about the newest coins available and the history behind both the coins and the images that are set on them. For smaller children the site even has cartoons that teach about money.

There are hundreds of sites that do a great job of keeping your children involved. The bureaus and various departments of government all have sites geared towards educating our kids about not just coins and paper money, but about how these departments work and the responsibilities in which they hold. If you are interested in a full list of sites, go to www.kids.gov for more links to fun sites that will keep your little ones learning for hours.

Synergy Cents

From the desk of *Penny D. Pelican* 

Hello again my savings-minded friends. Everyone would like to save, but sometimes saving can be tough. So, I've come up with a few tips to help you out.

Try setting a goal for how much you want to save. It's easy to say you want to save, but having a goal in mind helps get you there quicker. Since you don't always have the same amount of money, it might be a good idea to save a percentage of your money. Keep track of your savings so you can see it grow. You can see your savings grow even more with a minor savings account that will pay you interest.

Lots of people use piggy banks to save, but I say the more the merrier. Try using two or three banks. Mark one for saving, one for spending, and, if you can, mark one for giving. This will help you be sure to pay yourself to buy fun things, but also save for nicer stuff you may want later. Remember too, it's always good to help others or buy someone special a gift. Old coffee cans or jars make great banks. Ask an adult to save them for you so you can start saving now.

Because it can be so tempting to spend your money as soon as you get it, it might be a good idea to save first. Using your new banks, put a few dollars in your save bank then use what's left on other things you want. Remember that once you spend your money - it's gone. That's why saving first will ensure that you always keep a portion.

Lastly friends, you can save by being a good shopper. Look for deals when you shop; and, always try to get the best price on something you like. You may even want to wait and watch for sales or coupons to get your item at the best price.

Well, I hope these tips help you get on your way to saving as much as you can. Good luck!

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