

# Smart Choice!



## Q: How is money made?

- Hannah, 5th grade, Oshkosh

**A:** Most people think that the dollar bill is made out of paper, but it is actually made from 25% cotton and 75% linen. Bills are printed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington DC. They start the process by taking a big sheet of the special blend paper and print all the bills. Then they cut the bills and add some security features to protect against fraud. Did you know that a one dollar bill in the U. S. lasts for about 18 months? Making coins is a little different. They start with a piece of metal or copper and melt it into a circular shape. Once the circle is cooled it goes to a rolling mill. The blank coins get stamped and then put into a chemical to become shiny. All the coins get inspected and if there are any bad ones, they get melted again, and if they are good, they can go to straight to the bank. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing does have a tour, maybe this could be your next field trip!



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Local students connect with local Choice Bank staff through the Smart Choice! program. This program is designed to raise students' awareness of the importance of sound money management. NIE is the non-profit arm of Oshkosh Northwestern that provides local, Oshkosh classrooms with newspapers, educational materials and activities.