

HOW TO SPOT COUNTERFEIT BILLS

It is a sad truth, but there are people out who make fake money, and if you receive a fake bill, you're stuck with it. It's illegal for you to pass it along to someone else. So your best defense is to know how to spot a fake.

FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



EARN THIS NUGGET

Familiarize yourself with these easy ways to detect counterfeit money, and for your next three shopping trips, pay particular attention to any change that is passed to you. Get used to being street wise to the real deal.

LEVEL H

PERIOD 3

TASK 3

First, the best way to know a fake, is to know the real thing. So, if you get passed a dollar bill and it doesn't seem right, you may want to dig a little deeper. There are a lot of things you can do, and you can research this for yourself, but for now here are a few quick things you can check:

- **Raised Printing.** All authentic bills will have raised print. If the bill you have feels smooth, then that raises a red flag.
- **Any blurred borders, or blurred inks.** Printing is a very technical skill, and bank notes are incredibly hard to print, so fake ones will have diminished quality.
- **The paper used for US currency** has actual red and blue thread in it. If you look carefully, you'll see little bits of it in the paper. Fake ones will either not have this, or they will fake it by printing it on as a pattern. Look for this on a note and become familiar with it.
- **Watermark.** There is an invisible image, which is a replica of the face on the note. This is invisible until you hold the note up to the light. This image should only be visible when you hold it up to the light. In other words it should not be printed on with ink.
- **There is a final detail to look for--**running vertically on any modern bill with a value more than a five dollar is a thin strip with the monetary value and the letters "USA" on it. This will glow under UV light as well.

