

# The New Color of Money: Safer. Smarter. More Secure.

## USA TODAY Snapshots® The New Color of Money

The U.S. government has unveiled a newly designed and more colorful \$20 bill that will be tougher to counterfeit. The currency, which will begin circulating this fall, has a background of green, peach and blue, a large portrait of Andrew Jackson, our seventh

president, and other hard-to-copy changes. New designs for the \$50 note will be unveiled in 2004 and for the \$100 note in 2005. New designs for the \$5 and \$10 notes are still under consideration, but the \$2 and \$1 notes will not be redesigned.

### — Security features — New symbols

#### Security thread

Security thread, or plastic strip, is embedded in the paper and runs vertically up one side of the note. The words "USA TWENTY" and a small flag are visible along the thread from both sides of the note.

#### Symbols of Freedom

Two new American eagles appear on front. Large eagle in background represents eagles drawn during Jackson's time in the early 19th century; small eagle is more contemporary version.

#### Jackson portrait

Oval borders and lines surrounding Jackson portrait have been removed.

#### Color changes

Green and peach added as subtle background colors on both sides of note. Words "Twenty USA" printed in blue to right of portrait.

#### Watermark

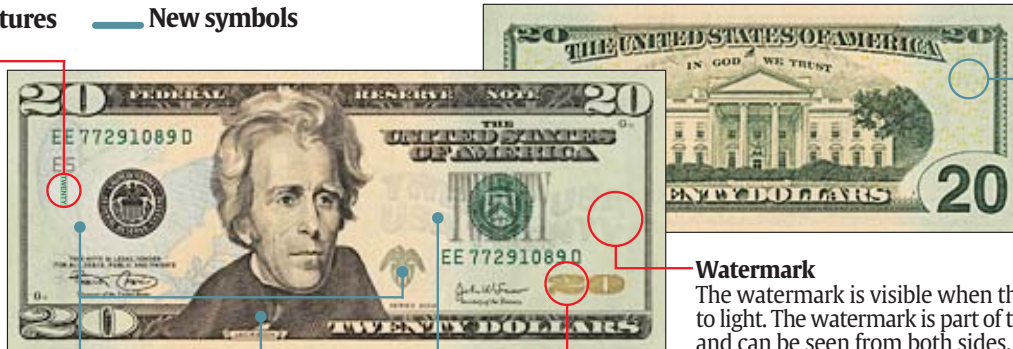
The watermark is visible when the note is held to light. The watermark is part of the paper itself and can be seen from both sides.

#### Color-shifting ink

The number "20" in the lower right on the front changes from copper to green when the note is tilted up or down.

#### Small 20s

Small numeral 20s are printed in the background on back of note.



Source: Bureau of Engraving and Printing; USA TODAY research

By Frank Pompa, USA TODAY

## COMPLIMENTARY EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

In late 2003, the United States government will be issuing currency with new designs and security features beginning with the \$20 note. The new \$20 design retains three of the most important, easy-to-check security features that were first introduced in the 1990s: a watermark, security thread and color-shifting ink.

As part of a national campaign to raise awareness about the newly redesigned currency, the U.S. government is making educational materials available to teachers. These materials, correlated to national educational standards, aim to teach students about our nation's currency. The program, part of a broader initiative supported by education, civic and volunteer organizations, includes a range of interactive educational activities:

► **Interactive CD-ROM** – Educational activities related to the history, security features and production process of the newly redesigned currency.

► **USA TODAY Educational Lessons** – Daily and weekly activities challenging students on current events related to financial literacy and the newly redesigned currency.

► **Classroom Activity Poster** – Information on the newly redesigned currency and activities that drive students to the web and interactive CD-ROM.

► **Currency Puzzle Challenge** – Students are to find pieces in three issues of USA TODAY, assemble them, and complete the related activities.

All of these educational materials are available free to teachers online at [www.moneyfactory.com/newmoney](http://www.moneyfactory.com/newmoney) and [www.usatoday.com/educate/newmoney/index.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/educate/newmoney/index.htm). For more information, email: [education@usatoday.com](mailto:education@usatoday.com) or contact Katie Mee at 202-530-4518.