



## Pupil Worksheet

### Royal Icons - The Penny Black and the Machin Stamp



**The Penny Black**

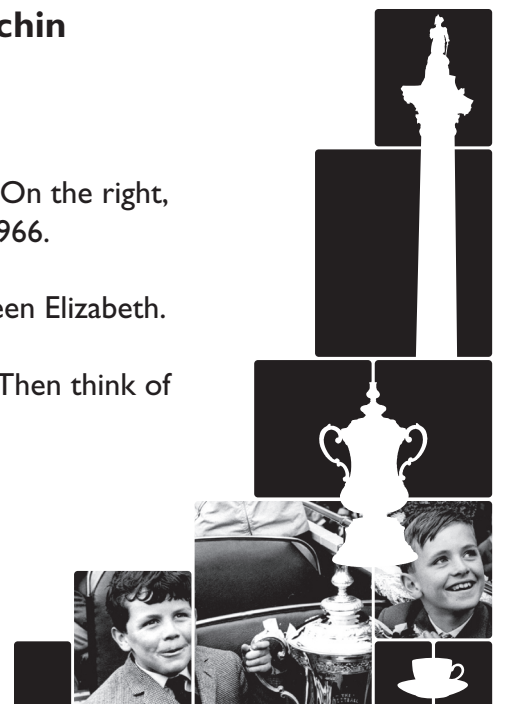


**The £5 Machin**

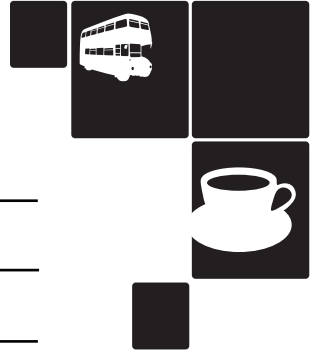
On the left you see a picture of the Penny Black stamp made in 1840. On the right, the Machin stamp of Queen Elizabeth taken from Machin's design in 1966.

Look carefully at the Penny Black stamp and the Machin stamp of Queen Elizabeth.

Think of all the similarities that you can see between the two stamps. Then think of all the differences. Write them down on the next page.



# Royal Icons - The Penny Black and the Machin Stamp



Similarities: \_\_\_\_\_

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Differences: \_\_\_\_\_

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Explain one of the differences. \_\_\_\_\_

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List some of the changes and inventions that have happened since Queen Victoria (1837-1901) was on the throne:

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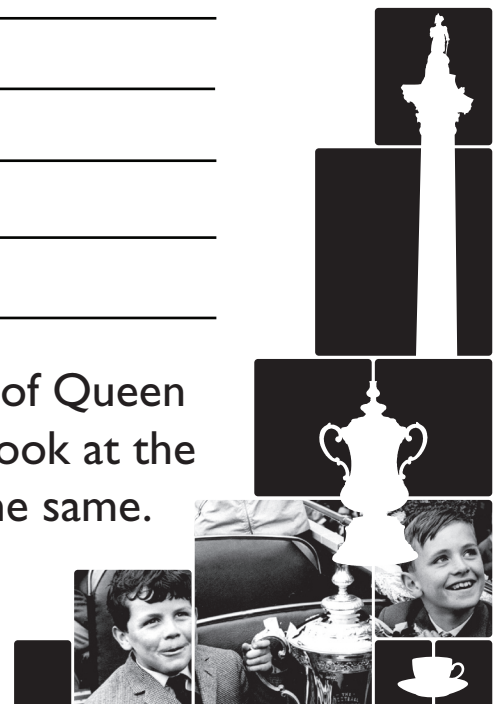
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Find some other paintings, coins or photographs of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth. Create a collage. Look at the ways that the designs have changed, and stayed the same.



# Royal Icons - The Penny Black and the Machin Stamp



The Penny Black

Engine turning background. This pattern is also found on banknotes to prevent forgery

Check letters were designed to prevent forgery by preventing people from sticking two halves of different stamps together

## How Many Pennies for a Pound?

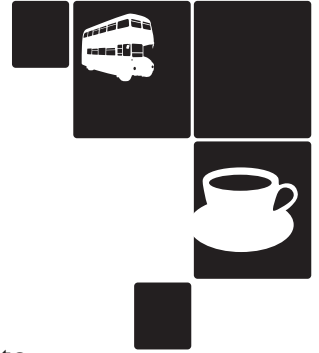
In 1840, Penny Black stamps were printed in sheets of 240. There were 12 stamps to a row (the number of pennies to a shilling). There were 20 rows on each sheet (the number of shillings in a pound). Each sheet of Penny Blacks was worth one pound.

The background of the Penny Black was a detailed geometric design produced by a machine called a **rose-lathe**. Similar machines are still used today to produce the patterns on bank notes. This kind of design is called **engine turning**.

You can trace around this outline of Queen Victoria and use it as a template for printing.



# Royal Icons - The Penny Black and the Machin Stamp



## Forgery is a Crime!

A system was needed to prevent people from sticking two halves of stamps together and using them twice. **Check letters** were introduced to ensure this could not happen, and to prevent forgery. Each row had a different letter in the lower left hand corner. The letter along the row stayed the same. Each column had its own check letter in the lower right hand corner that stayed the same.



Block of Penny Black Stamps

Look at the block of Penny Black stamps above. Can you see how the check letters work?

