

READING

Read the following passage about coin banks. Then answer the questions that follow.

From Pygg Jars to Piggy Banks

by Marilyn Helmer

Why are so many coin banks shaped like pigs? Why not dogs or cats or elephants?

Coin banks weren't always made to look like pigs. In fact, the name "piggy bank" may have come from a kind of clay and not from the animal at all.

The history of the piggy bank goes back to the Middle Ages. At that time in western Europe, metals were expensive to mine, so a cheap orange clay known as *pygg* was used for everyday items such as dishes and jars. In fact, something made from *pygg* clay was often just called a *pygg*. The first piggy bank may well have been a *pygg* in which a thrifty person stashed a few extra pennies to buy a treat on market day.

People have always had a penchant for saving pennies, and using a *pygg* as a coin bank became common practice. Potters began making jars specially for saving coins, and eventually these jars took on a piglike shape. Modeling a bank to look like a pig may have been influenced by the name of the clay. Also,

in many parts of the world the pig has long been considered a good luck charm. The earliest Roman coin bank ever found was decorated with a pig. Because it was considered a valuable farm animal in many countries, the pig was an appropriate symbol of wealth and prosperity.

These early clay banks were fragile and easily broken. As time passed, mining became less expensive. Iron, copper, pewter, and silver gradually replaced *pygg* clay in the production of household items. Although *pygg* clay lost its popularity, the habit of saving pennies did not. Today piggy banks are made of every material imaginable, including gold, silver, glass, wood, pottery, ceramics, and plastic.

The familiar saying "A penny saved is a penny earned" is as old as the early piggy banks. Many a child received his or her first coin bank accompanied by this wise advice. The modern day piggy bank may have changed in size, shape, and spelling, but it saves our pennies just as well as the first *pygg* did centuries ago.

READING

A.2.4.1

1. Which sentence from the passage best states the main idea?
- A "The familiar saying 'A penny saved is a penny earned' is as old as the early piggy banks."
 - B "As time passed, mining became less expensive."
 - C "In fact, the name 'piggy bank' may have come from a kind of clay and not from the animal at all."
 - D "Iron, copper, pewter, and silver gradually replaced pygg clay in the production of household items."

A.2.3.1

2. Why does the author begin the passage with two questions?
- A to explain a problem
 - B to introduce the topic
 - C to add supporting details
 - D to describe different pets

A.2.2.2

3. Read this sentence from the passage.
- "These early clay banks were fragile and easily broken."

What does the word fragile most likely mean?

- A weak
- B large
- C cheap
- D rough

A.2.3.1

4. What is the most likely reason coin banks were first shaped like pigs?
- A Pigs have often been children's favorite pets.
 - B Long ago, a pig was considered a sign of good luck.
 - C The shape of a pig holds more money than other animals.
 - D A pig is the same color as the orange clay that potters used.

READING

A.2.3.1

5. Read the following sentences from the passage.

"The familiar saying 'A penny saved is a penny earned' is as old as the early piggy banks. Many a child received his or her first coin bank accompanied by this wise advice."

Why would someone say "a penny saved is a penny earned" to a child who is given a piggy bank?

- A to describe how to put a coin into a bank
- B to prove that one penny is worth very little
- C to encourage a child to save each penny earned
- D to make a child work hard for the money earned

