



Training Course

This course is designed to help you learn how to use the security features in U.S. currency. The more you know, the less likely you are to accept counterfeit notes.



Overview



Security Features



Exam

When you leave the site, your progress through the course will not be saved and your personal information will not be collected or stored. For more information, see our [Privacy Policy](#).



This training course takes approximately 20 minutes to complete and covers two content areas:

- *Overview*
- *Security features and authentication*

Following the course, you will have the opportunity to test your knowledge with a final exam.

For security purposes, all notes have the word "specimen" printed on them.

Short on time? You can download the PDF version here:



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Download Answer Key

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Overview

U.S. currency circulates broadly around the world. U.S. banknotes, or Federal Reserve notes, are printed by the Department of the Treasury's Bureau of Engraving and Printing. They are then issued and distributed by the Federal Reserve.

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Denominations of U.S. Currency

The Federal Reserve Board currently issues \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 notes. Each denomination features a portrait of a famous American statesman on its face and an image reflective of the nation's history on the back. Let's look at the two most recent styles of notes for each denomination.

Click on the notes below to learn about each one.



\$1 Note

President George Washington on the front
Image of the Great Seal of the United States on the back

1963 - present front view



1963 - present back view



Previous Bill

[\\$1](#) [\\$2](#) [\\$5](#) [\\$10](#) [\\$20](#) [\\$50](#) [\\$100](#)

Next Bill

\$2 Note

President Thomas Jefferson on the front
Image of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on the back

1976 - present front view



1976 - present back view



[Previous Bill](#)

[\\$1](#) [\\$2](#) [\\$5](#) [\\$10](#) [\\$20](#) [\\$50](#) [\\$100](#)

[Next Bill](#)

\$5 Note

President Abraham Lincoln on the front
Image of the Lincoln Memorial on the back

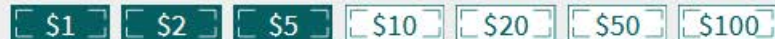
2008 - present



2000 - 2008



Previous Bill



Next Bill

\$5 Note

President Abraham Lincoln on the front
Image of the Lincoln Memorial on the back

2008 - present



2000 - 2008



Previous Bill

[\\$1](#) [\\$2](#) [\\$5](#) [\\$10](#) [\\$20](#) [\\$50](#) [\\$100](#)

Next Bill

\$10 Note

Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton on the front
Image of the Treasury building on the back

2006 - present



2000 - 2006



Previous Bill

[\\$1](#) [\\$2](#) [\\$5](#) [\\$10](#) [\\$20](#) [\\$50](#) [\\$100](#)

Next Bill

\$10 Note

Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton on the front

Image of the Treasury building on the back

2006 - present



2000 - 2006



Previous Bill

[\\$1](#) [\\$2](#) [\\$5](#) [\\$10](#) [\\$20](#) [\\$50](#) [\\$100](#)

Next Bill

\$20 Note

President Andrew Jackson on the front

Image of the White House on the back

2003 - present



1998 - 2003



Previous Bill

[\\$1](#) [\\$2](#) [\\$5](#) [\\$10](#) [\\$20](#) [\\$50](#) [\\$100](#)

Next Bill

\$20 Note

President Andrew Jackson on the front

Image of the White House on the back

2003 - present



1998 - 2003



Previous Bill

[\\$1](#) [\\$2](#) [\\$5](#) [\\$10](#) [\\$20](#) [\\$50](#) [\\$100](#)

Next Bill

\$50 Note

President Ulysses S. Grant on the front
Image of the U.S. Capitol Building on the back

2004 - present



1997 - 2004



Previous Bill

[\\$1](#) [\\$2](#) [\\$5](#) [\\$10](#) [\\$20](#) [\\$50](#) [\\$100](#)

Next Bill

\$50 Note

President Ulysses S. Grant on the front
Image of the U.S. Capitol Building on the back

2004 - present



1997 - 2004



Previous Bill

[\\$1](#) [\\$2](#) [\\$5](#) [\\$10](#) [\\$20](#) [\\$50](#) [\\$100](#)

Next Bill

\$100 Note

Benjamin Franklin on the front
Image of Independence Hall on the back

2013 - present



1996 - 2013



Previous Bill

[\\$1](#) [\\$2](#) [\\$5](#) [\\$10](#) [\\$20](#) [\\$50](#) [\\$100](#)

Finish

\$100 Note

Benjamin Franklin on the front
Image of Independence Hall on the back

2013 - present



1996 - 2013



Previous Bill

[\\$1](#) [\\$2](#) [\\$5](#) [\\$10](#) [\\$20](#) [\\$50](#) [\\$100](#)

Finish



Security Features

In this section, you will learn about the security features found in different denominations of U.S. currency. You will also learn simple steps to authenticate the notes you are handed when pressed for time. All you need to do is feel, tilt, and check.

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Security Features on U.S. Currency

The Federal Reserve Board currently issues \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 notes. Each denomination has several key security features, such as a 3-D Security Ribbon, a portrait watermark, color-shifting ink, and a security thread.

Click on the notes below to learn about each one.

[Quick authentication](#)



Quick Ways to Authenticate

Even when pressed for time, you can still take simple steps to authenticate the notes you are handed.

All you need to do is feel, tilt, and check.



Feel the paper



Tilt the note



Check with light



Check with UV light

[Go back](#)

\$5 Note

The 2004 style and 1996 style \$5 note have common security features. Both include a watermark located to the right of the portrait (A) and a security thread (B)

2008 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

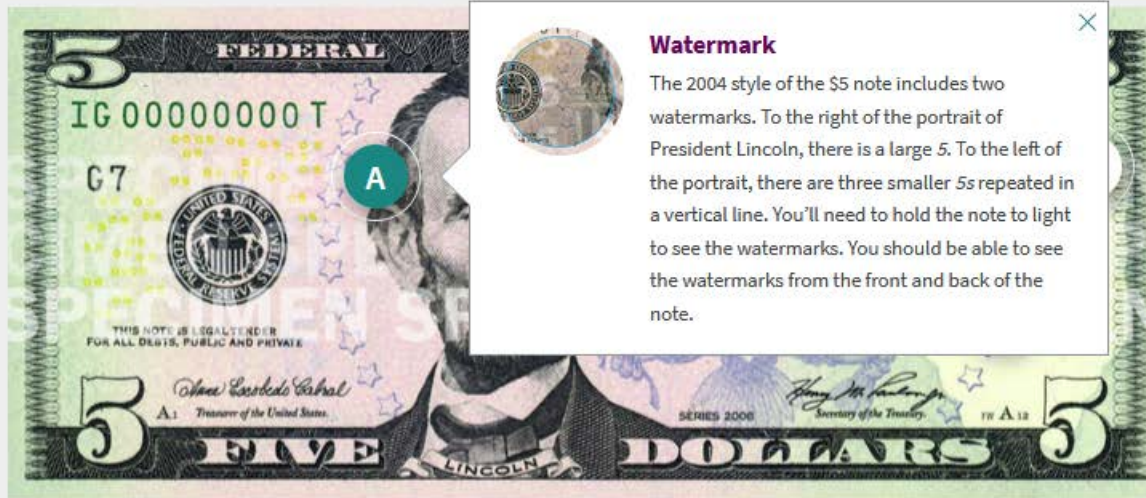
\$100

Next Bill

\$5 Note

The 2004 style and 1996 style \$5 note have common security features. Both include a watermark located to the right of the portrait (A) and a security thread (B)

2008 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

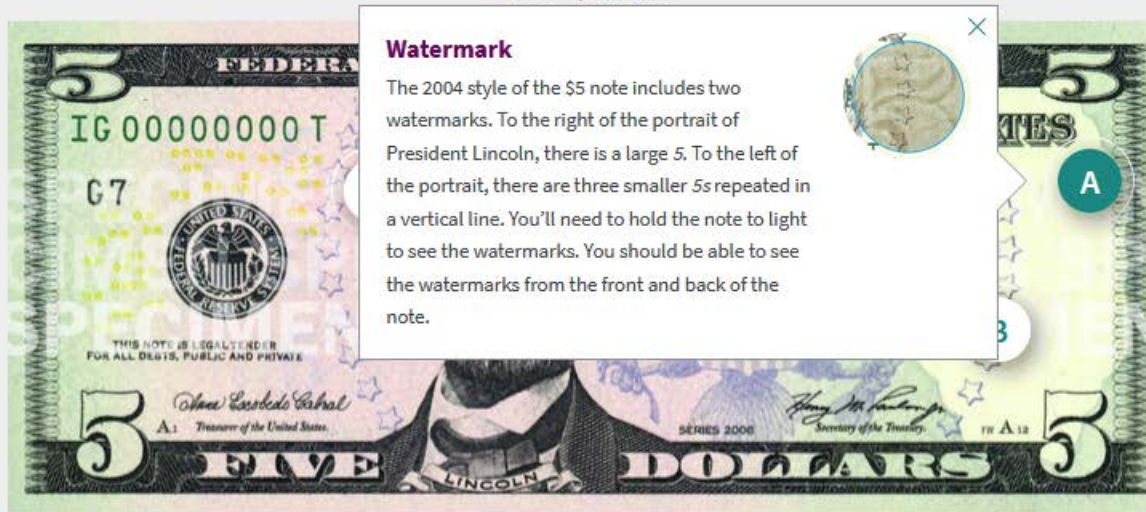
\$100

Next Bill

\$5 Note

The 2004 style and 1996 style \$5 note have common security features. Both include a watermark located to the right of the portrait (A) and a security thread (B)

2008 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

\$100

Next Bill

\$5 Note

The 2004 style and 1996 style \$5 note have common security features. Both include a watermark located to the right of the portrait (A) and a security thread (B)

2008 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

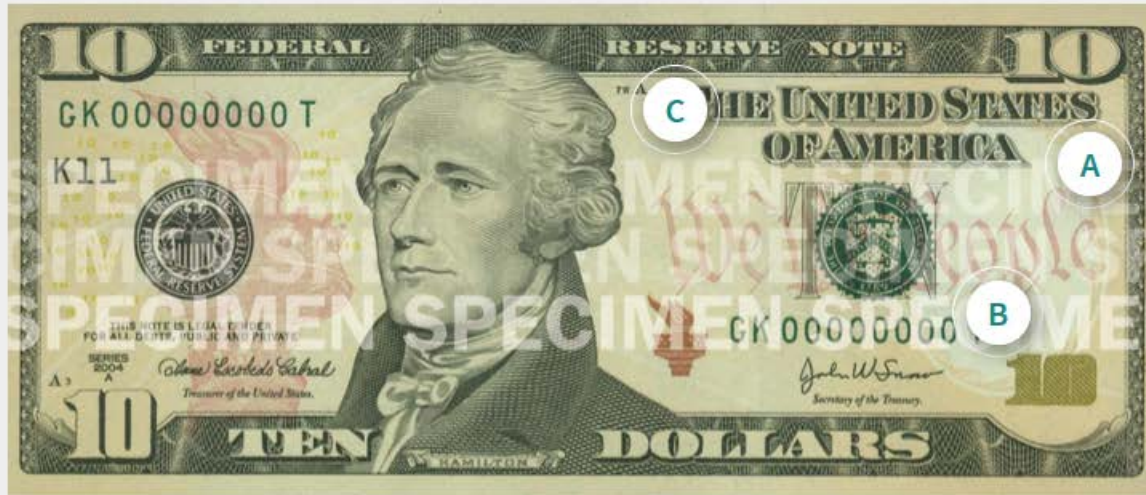
\$100

Next Bill

\$10 Note

The \$10 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)

2006 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

\$100

Next Bill

\$10 Note

The \$10 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)

2006 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

\$100

Next Bill

\$10 Note

The \$10 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)

2006 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

\$100

Next Bill

\$10 Note

The \$10 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)

2006 - present



Security Thread

The security thread on the \$10 note is located to the right of the portrait of Secretary Hamilton. On both styles of the \$10 note, the security thread reads *USA TEN* and includes a small flag. To see the security thread, hold it to light. The security thread is visible from both the front and back of the note.

Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

\$100

Next Bill

\$20 Note

The \$20 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of President Andrew Jackson (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)

2003 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

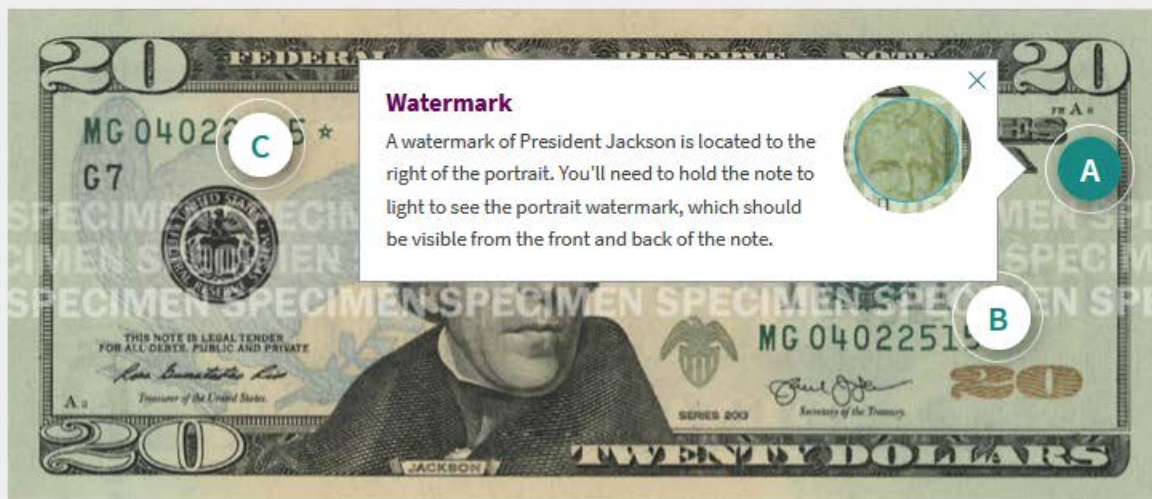
\$100

Next Bill

\$20 Note

The \$20 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of President Andrew Jackson (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)

2003 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

\$100

Next Bill

\$20 Note

The \$20 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of President Andrew Jackson (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)

2003 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

\$100

Next Bill

\$20 Note

The \$20 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of President Andrew Jackson (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)

2003 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

\$100

Next Bill

\$50 Note

The \$50 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of President Ulysses S. Grant (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)

2004 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

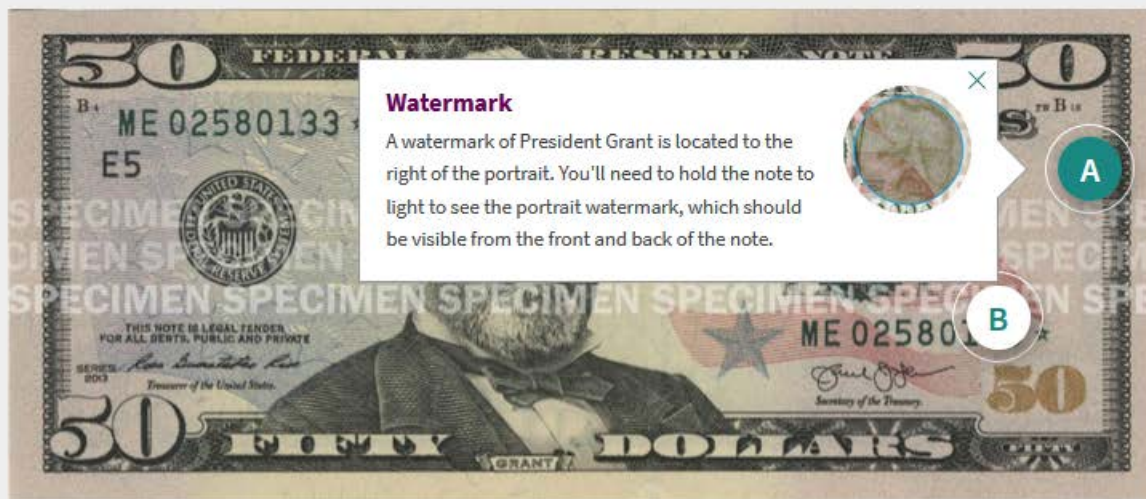
\$100

Next Bill

\$50 Note

The \$50 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of President Ulysses S. Grant (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)

2004 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

\$100

Next Bill

\$50 Note

The \$50 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of President Ulysses S. Grant (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)

2004 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

\$100

Next Bill

\$50 Note

The \$50 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of President Ulysses S. Grant (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)

2004 - present



Security Thread

The security thread on the \$50 note is located to the right of the portrait of President Grant. On both the 1996 style and 2004 style \$50 note, the security thread reads *USA 50* and includes a small flag. To see the thread, hold it to light. The thread is visible from both the front and back of the note.

Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

\$100

Next Bill

\$100 Note

The current style \$100 note has several key security features: a 3-D Security Ribbon (A), a portrait watermark of Benjamin Franklin (B), color-shifting ink (C), and a security thread (D)

2013 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

\$100

Finish

\$100 Note

The current style \$100 note has several key security features: a 3-D Security Ribbon (A), a portrait watermark of Benjamin Franklin (B), color-shifting ink (C), and a security thread (D)

2013 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

\$100

Finish

\$100 Note

The current style \$100 note has several key security features: a 3-D Security Ribbon (A), a portrait watermark of Benjamin Franklin (B), color-shifting ink (C), and a security thread (D)

2013 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

\$100

Finish

\$100 Note

The current style \$100 note has several key security features: a 3-D Security Ribbon (A), a portrait watermark of Benjamin Franklin (B), color-shifting ink (C), and a security thread (D)

2013 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

\$100

Finish

\$100 Note

The current style \$100 note has several key security features: a 3-D Security Ribbon (A), a portrait watermark of Benjamin Franklin (B), color-shifting ink (C), and a security thread (D)

2013 - present



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

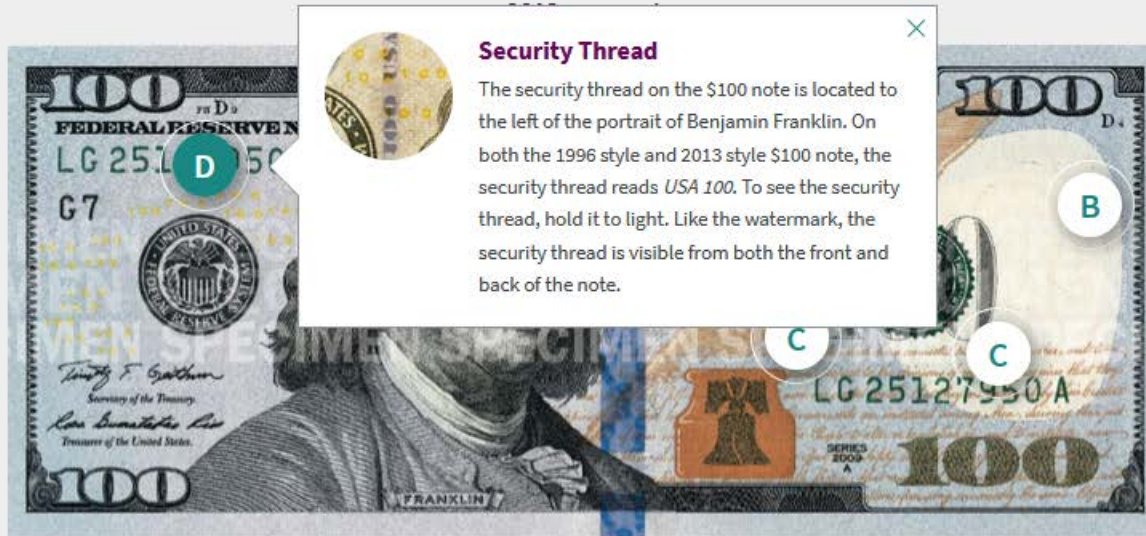
\$50

\$100

Finish

\$100 Note

The current style \$100 note has several key security features: a 3-D Security Ribbon (A), a portrait watermark of Benjamin Franklin (B), color-shifting ink (C), and a security thread (D)



Previous Bill

\$5

\$10

\$20

\$50

\$100

Finish



Exam

Now that you know about the security features in U.S. currency and what steps to take to authenticate a note, it's time to test your knowledge. Using the information you've learned, look carefully at the security features in the following notes and see if you can identify which notes may not be genuine.

Share This:  

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Exam

Current Score: 0%

Exit section

Magnify

UV light

Backlight

Tilt



Drag the
backlight tool
across the bill
to reveal the
watermark.

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$100 note above for a watermark.

Is this note genuine U.S. currency?

Genuine U.S. currency

Counterfeit currency

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Next



Current Score: 10%

[Magnify](#)[UV light](#)[Backlight](#)[Tilt](#)

Drag the tilt tool to reveal the color-shifting ink.

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$20 note above for color-shifting ink.

Is this note genuine U.S. currency?

[Genuine U.S. currency](#)[Counterfeit currency](#)

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

[Next](#)



Magnify

UV light

Backlight

Tilt



Drag the UV
light tool
across the bill
to reveal the
security
thread.

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$50 note above for a security thread.

Is this note genuine U.S. currency?

Genuine U.S. currency

Counterfeit currency



3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Next



Magnify

UV light

Backlight

Tilt



Drag the tilt tool to reveal the color-shifting ink.

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$10 note above for color-shifting ink.

Is this note genuine U.S. currency?

Genuine U.S. currency

Counterfeit currency



4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Next



Magnify

UV light

Backlight

Tilt



Drag the
backlight tool
across the bill
to reveal the
watermark.

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$50 note above for a watermark.

Is this note genuine U.S. currency?

Genuine U.S. currency

Counterfeit currency



5

6

7

8

9

10

Next



Magnify

UV light

Backlight

Tilt



Drag the magnify tool across the bill to reveal the microprinting.

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$20 note above for microprinting.

Is this note genuine U.S. currency?

Genuine U.S. currency

Counterfeit currency



Next



Magnify

UV light

Backlight

Tilt



Drag the tilt tool to reveal the 3-D security ribbon.

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$100 note above for a security ribbon.

Is this note genuine U.S. currency?

Genuine U.S. currency

Counterfeit currency



7

8

9

10

Next



Magnify

UV light

Backlight

Tilt



Drag the magnify tool across the bill to reveal the microprinting.

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$50 note above for microprinting.

Is this note genuine U.S. currency?

Genuine U.S. currency

Counterfeit currency



8

9

10

Next



Magnify

UV light

Backlight

Tilt



Drag the
backlight tool
across the bill
to reveal the
security
thread.

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$100 note above for a security thread.

Is this note genuine U.S. currency?

Genuine U.S. currency

Counterfeit currency



9

10

Next



Magnify

UV light

Backlight

Tilt



Drag the
backlight tool
across the bill
to reveal the
watermark.

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$20 note above for a watermark.

Is this note genuine U.S. currency?

Genuine U.S. currency

Counterfeit currency



10

Finish