

COINage Kids

by Marcy Gibbel

Happy Birthday, USMC

November 10 marks the 238th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). Captain Samuel Nicholas formed two battalions of Continental Marines in Philadelphia as naval infantry in 1775.

Since then, the mission of the Marine Corps has changed to meet the needs of the time's military doctrine and American foreign policy. The Marine Corps has served in every American armed conflict and attained prominence in the 20th century, when its theories and practices of amphibious warfare proved invaluable and ultimately formed the cornerstone of the Pacific campaign of World War II.

The USMC is the branch of the armed forces that's responsible for using the mobility of the United States Navy to quickly deliver a combination of armed task forces. It is one of seven uniformed services of the United States. The Marine Corps often works closely with the United States Department of the Navy for training, transportation and logistics, but it is a separate branch.

* * *

The United States Mint celebrated the 230th anniversary of the Corps by striking the Marine Corps Commemorative silver dollar. The coins were struck in the Proof Room, where the coin was produced. The official launch of the coin was staged at Quantico, Virginia. This was the first time the United States has honored a branch of the military with a commemorative coin.

The larger-than-normal mintage for the Marine Corps series was thought to work against the coin, but it sold out in around 60 days.

The obverse (heads) design of the Marine Corps silver dollar features the raising of the American flag at Iwo Jima from the famous photograph by Joe Rosenthal. On the reverse (tails) of the coin is the Marine Corps emblem and motto, "Semper Fidelis"—always faithful.

Surcharges from the sale of 2005 Marine Corps 230th Anniversary Silver Dollars are authorized to be paid to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation for the purposes of construction of the Marine Corps Heritage Center in Quantico.

Mail your completed quiz to November Quiz, *COINage* magazine, P.O. Box 7030, Ventura, CA 93006-9899. Five winners will be drawn from the valid entries received by November 30, 2013. Valid entries must include the correct answers, the entrant's name, age (17 or younger) and address, and the signature of a parent or guardian. *Please, only one entry per child per household.* The winner will receive a prize from our "grab bag" of U.S. and world coins.

Year: 2005

U.S. Mint Facility: Philadelphia
Mintage (max.): 600,000*

Obverse

Engraver: Norman E. Nemeth

Description: Historic flag raising on Iwo Jima, Inscriptions: "Marines," "1775," "2005," "In God We Trust," "Liberty."

Reverse

Engraver: Charles L. Vickers

Description: Eagle, Globe and Anchor, the Marine Corps Emblem; thirteen stars. Inscriptions: "Semper Fidelis" (the Marine Corps Motto), "United States of America," "E Pluribus Unum," "One Dollar."

*Based on independent market research provided by the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, the Secretary exercised his authority (for the first time) to increase the legislated maximum mintage (500,000) to 600,000.



1. How old is the United States Marine Corps?
2. Did the USMC serve in the Civil War?
3. True or false: The Marine Corps works closely with the United States Army.
4. What was the final mintage of Marine Corps commemorative dollars?
5. True or false: You can still purchase the Marine Corps commemorative dollar from the U.S.Mint.
6. Who were the coin's engravers?
7. What is the Marine Corps motto, and what does it mean?
8. True or false: This is the second coin honoring a branch of the U.S. military.
9. How many branches of armed forces are there in the U.S. military?
10. Describe the Marine Corps emblem as it appears on the commemorative silver dollar.