

The Luckiest of Charms

LUCKY CHARMS AND SYMBOLS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

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THE LUCKIEST OF CHARMS

Name: _____

Every culture and country has a different symbol, or even object that is considered lucky. With each lucky charm comes a fascinating history deep-rooted in folklore, myths, legend and even religion. Whether someone was looking for wealth and prosperity, protection, or just a little bit of luck, these charms just might be just the place to start!

 <p>GERMANY: LADYBUG Ladybugs are considered lucky in many cultures. In fact, in Germany they are called, "Glückshepfer" which literally translates to "lucky bugs." It is thought the number of spots on their back is related to how much luck they will bring you.</p>	 <p>ISRAEL: SAPPHIRE This gorgeous blue gemstone has been used for thousands of years across different cultures. It is known as a stone of wisdom, and royalty. It was believed to bring protection, spiritual insight, power, strength, kindness, and wise judgement. It was believed both King Solomon and Abraham wore Sapphires.</p>
 <p>ENGLAND: ACORN Acorns are another symbol thought to bring luck by many different cultures. It likely originated with the Norse people who thought the acorn would bring wisdom and good fortune. The English used to carry acorns in their pockets as they went to battle for protection & power.</p>	 <p>SWEDEN: DALA HORSE The Dala or Dalecarlian horses were first carved hundreds of years ago by the Swedish people. Dalecarlian refers to the language or dialect spoken by the people that lived in Dalearna. Today the horse is a symbol of good luck, and thought to bring strength and dignity. Typically the horses are painted red, white, or green.</p>
 <p>CHINA: THE NUMBER EIGHT The Irish & others may consider 7 to be the luckiest number, but in China they would argue it's the 8. The word for 8 in Chinese sounds a lot like the word for prosperity. The shape of the number is also balanced w/ two curves. Leading to balance & harmony in your life.</p>	 <p>POLAND: CARP SCALES In Poland, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic a traditional Christmas dinner was fresh Carp. So fresh it was encouraged to let the Carp swim in your bathtub until it was time to eat. After the fish is consumed people still today will carry a few scales in their wallet for the next 12 months. Doing this was believed to bring good fortune.</p>
 <p>EGYPT: SCARAB The Scarab beetle being used as a good luck charm in Egypt dates back as far as 2345 B.C. It was associated with the Egyptian god Khepri. The beetle symbolized new life and typically had touches of green added to it to represent new growth.</p>	 <p>GUATEMALA: WORRY DOLLS Worry Dolls, originated hundreds of years ago. Standing only 2 inches tall, and dressed in bright colors, the worry doll was believed to bring peace and rest to whoever used it. Worry Dolls were used by those that had trouble sleeping, and children with fears or anxiety. To use you would tell your worries to the doll, then place it under your pillow.</p>
 <p>JAPAN: MANEKI NEKO The Maneki Neko cat statue is recognized by its friendly paw waving hello. Maneki in Japanese means beckoning. It is believed the cat will bring money and prosperity to those that display it. The cat comes in different colors: white=happiness, black=protection, green=health, gold=wealth=good luck!</p>	 <p>UKRAINE: PYSAANKA A Pysanka is a Ukrainian Easter Egg. No one knows the exact date the use of Pysanka can be traced back to ancient times. It was believed that the more Pysanka that were decorated, the stronger, healthier, and more successful the family would be. Different symbols brought different things: wheat=health, birds=happiness, deer=strength, fish=wealth.</p>
 <p>TURKEY: NAZAR The Nazar has been used for thousands of years and likely originated in the Mediterranean. The Nazar is a glass bead layered in blue and white with a black dot in the middle. Nazars are thought to provide protection and ward off bad luck caused from the "evil eye."</p>	 <p>UNITED STATES: PENNY This coin was first created in 1787, and was reported as being designed by Benjamin Franklin himself. There's an Old Wives Tale that a woman should put a wedding in her shoe on her wedding day, and that a penny should be picked up only if it's face up. Apparently, it was believed that metal came from the god's and being led to the thought of a lucky copper penny!</p>

Long before the penny, coins have been thought to bring luck for thousands of years. According to the English, coins with a hole in them are luckiest of all. It was thought that if you lost a coin with a hole in it you would never be without money. Perhaps the luckiest coin of all is the Feng Shui Coin, or Chinese Lucky Coin. You better believe these ancient good luck charms even have a hole in them! Feng Shui originated as many as 6,000 years ago and was a secret forbidden to outsiders. Feng Shui deals with the placement, construction, and use of objects to bring happiness, and harmony. Feng Shui coins were thought to bring the energy of money, good luck and abundance. These coins have a Yin and a Yang side. The Yang side has 4 characters, the Yin side has two. Yin & Yang symbolize balance and harmony.

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Name: _____

WHAT WAS SOMETHING YOU FOUND INTERESTING FROM THE READING? _____

IF YOU COULD HAVE OR USE ONE OF THE LUCKY CHARMS, WHICH WOULD IT BE AND WHY? _____

WHAT WAS SOMETHING THAT SURPRISED YOU FROM THE READING? _____

DO YOU HAVE A LUCKY CHARM? DESCRIBE IT. IF NOT DESCRIBE A TIME YOU FELT LIKE YOU

LUCKED OUT. _____

WHY DO YOU THINK ACROSS THE SPAN OF SO MANY CULTURES, THEY ALL SEEM TO HAVE LUCKY

CHARMS IN COMMON? _____

CONTINUE TO LEARN! THERE ARE MANY OTHER CHARMS, OBJECTS, ANIMALS, SHAPES, TRADITIONS, AND THINGS CONSIDERED TO BE LUCKY! FIND ONE NOT LISTED, RESEARCH WHERE IT STARTED, AND WHAT IT'S BELIEVED TO BRING TO THE PERSON USING IT. (GOLDFISH, ELEPHANTS, LAUGHING BUDDHA, BAMBOO, DREAM CATCHERS, CORNICELLO, ALLIGATOR TEETH, KEYS, GOLDEN TOAD, MILAGROS, PARISIAN YARN DOLLS, TRIANGLES, CIRCLES, PIGS, TUMI, WISHBONE, SWALLOW, MOLES, CHIMNEY SWEEP...ETC!)

LEARN ABOUT 13 OF THE LUCKIEST CHARMS
FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD AS WELL AS
THEIR FASCINATING HISTORY AND MEANING!

QUESTIONS

READING COMPREHENSION



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GERMANY: LADYBUG
Ladybugs are considered lucky in many cultures. In fact, in Germany they are called, "Glückshefer" which literally translates to "lucky bugs." It is thought the number of spots on the back is related to how much luck they will bring you.



ENGLAND: ACORN
Acorns are another symbol thought to bring luck by many different cultures. It likely originated with the Norse people who thought the acorn would bring wisdom and good fortune. The English used to carry acorns in their pockets as they went to battle for protection & power.



CHINA: THE NUMBER 8
The Irish & others may consider 7 to be the luckiest number, but in China they would argue it's the #8. The



ISRAEL: SAPPHIRE
This gorgeous blue gemstone has been used for thousands of years across different cultures. It is known as a stone of wisdom, and royalty. It was believed to bring protection, spiritual insight, power, strength, kindness, and wisdom. It was believed both King Solomon and Abraham wore Sapphires.



SWEDEN: DALA HORSE
The Dala or Dalecarlian horses were first carved hundreds of years ago by the Swedish people. Dalecarlian refers to the language or dialect spoken by the people that lived in Darlana. Today the horse is a symbol of good luck, and thought to bring strength and dignity. Typically the horses are painted red, white, or green.



JAPAN: CAT
The Maneki-neko, or "beckoning cat," is a symbol of good luck. It is believed that those who see a white cat are happy, and those who see a black cat are unlucky.



IRELAND: PENNY
No one knows the exact origin of the penny, but it is believed to be traced back to the more Pysanka that good had over evil. Different things: wheat=health, fish=wealth.



TURKEY: NAZAR
The Nazar has been used to ward off bad luck caused from the "evil eye." It is likely originated in the Mediterranean and is a glass bead layered in blue and white with a black dot in the middle. Nazars are thought to provide protection and ward off bad luck caused from the "evil eye."



CHINA: FENG SHUI COIN
Long before the penny, coins have been thought to bring luck for thousands of years. According to the English, coins with a hole in them are luckiest of all. It was thought that if you kept a coin with a hole in it you would never be without money. Perhaps the luckiest coin of all is the Feng Shui Coins, or Chinese Lucky Coins. You better believe these ancient good luck charms even have a hole in them! Feng Shui originated as many as 6,000 years ago and was a secret forbidden to outsiders. Feng Shui deals with the placement, construction, and use of objects to bring happiness, and harmony. Feng Shui coins were thought to bring the energy of money, good luck and abundance. These coins have a Yin and a Yang side. The Yang side has 4 characters, the Yin side has two. Yin & Yang symbolize balance and harmony.

POLAND: CARP
In Poland, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic a traditional Christmas dinner was fresh Carp. So fresh it was encouraged to be the Carp swim in your bathtub until it is dead.

UNITED STATES: DOLLAR
The dollar is a symbol of wealth and good luck. It is believed that those who see a dollar are happy, and those who see a penny are unlucky.

UNITED STATES: PENNY
The penny is a symbol of good luck. It is believed that those who see a penny are happy, and those who see a dollar are unlucky.

UNITED STATES: NAZAR
The Nazar is a symbol of good luck. It is believed that those who see a Nazar are happy, and those who see a penny are unlucky.

UNITED STATES: FENG SHUI COIN
The Feng Shui Coin is a symbol of good luck. It is believed that those who see a Feng Shui Coin are happy, and those who see a penny are unlucky.



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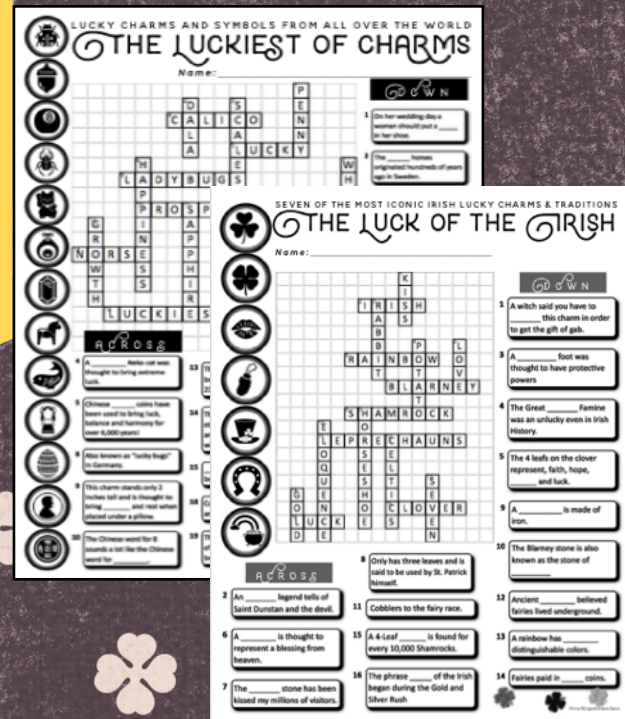
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