

ASIAN AMERICAN ON COIN

Nov 13th, 2022

WARM-UP QUESTIONS: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s).*

1. What is the last movie you saw? Who were the actors?
2. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it is about?

VOCABULARY: *Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.*

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|-------------------|--|
| 1. Currency | a) the movement of money around the economy |
| 2. Circulation | b) to pay less than what is normal or expected |
| 3. Accomplishment | c) a movie about a person's life |
| 4. Contribution | d) giving or doing something that helps |
| 5. Xenophobia | e) the money that is used in a particular country |
| 6. Underpay | f) to die |
| 7. Portray | g) to show |
| 8. Villain | h) a character that is bad or evil |
| 9. Pass away | i) an impressive thing that someone does |
| 10. Biopic | j) a fear or dislike of people from other countries and cultures |

LISTEN: *Listen to the audio track on eslnewsstories.com or to a reader of the text. Try to fill in the missing words. Then check your answers with the full text (below).*

Anna May Wong has become the first Asian American to feature on American currency. Twenty-five cent coins, _____ as quarters, with the face of the actress entered circulation last month.

The new coin is part of a series that features important American women from history. The goal of the series is to _____ the accomplishments and contributions made by women to the United States. Other women that appeared on coins this year include writer Maya Angelou and America's first woman in space, Sally Ride.

Anna May Wong first appeared in a movie at age 14, and she had her first lead role in 1922's *The Toll of the Sea*. She became a star despite _____ at a time when there was a lot of anti-Asian xenophobia in American society. Unfortunately, she was underpaid and offered roles that portrayed Asians negatively. She complained that Chinese were usually villains in American films, and she went to _____ to continue acting.

Anna May Wong's contribution to American films was recognized near the end of her life, when in 1960, she received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. A biopic is being made about her life that will _____ Gemma Chan.

WORD FORMS: *Fill in different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an x, the word is unimportant for ESL students, has a different meaning, or does not exist. Sometimes there are multiple possible answers, and sometimes the adjective form is a past or present participle.*

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
		x	circulation
		x	accomplishment
		x	contribution
x			xenophobia
portray		x	

FULL STORY:

Anna May Wong has become the first Asian American to feature on American currency. Twenty-five cent coins, known as quarters, with the face of the actress entered circulation last month.

The new coin is part of a series that features important American women from history. The goal of the series is to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions made by women to the United States. Other women that appeared on coins this year include writer Maya Angelou and America's first woman in space, Sally Ride.

Anna May Wong first appeared in a movie at age 14, and she had her first lead role in 1922's *The Toll of the Sea*. She became a star despite working at a time when there was a lot of anti-Asian xenophobia in American society. Unfortunately, she was underpaid and offered roles that portrayed Asians negatively. She complained that Chinese were usually villains in American films, and she went to Europe to continue acting.

Anna May Wong's contribution to American films was recognized near the end of her life, when in 1960, she received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. A biopic is being made about her life that will star Gemma Chan.

Sources: npr.org, bbc.com, washingtonpost.com, usmint.gov
For source links, see the article on ESLNewsStories.com

COMPREHENSION: *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F), and then discuss your answers with your partner(s).*

1. Anna May Wong is the first woman to be on a coin. (T / F)
2. Coins are being made that celebrate important women. (T / F)
3. In films, Chinese characters were usually bad. (T / F)
4. Gemma Chan has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. (T / F)

COMPLETE: *Re-order the following sentences. Capitalize certain words and add punctuation.*

1. quarter / twenty-five / a / worth / is / cents
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2. of / society / there / a / american / in / was / lot / xenophobia
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DISCUSSION: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.*

1. What and who are on the coins of your country?
2. Some people collect rare coins as a hobby. Do you collect anything?
3. Who is your favorite actress or actor?
4. Which country's films do you mostly watch? Give examples if you can.
5. Which women are known for their accomplishments in your country?
6. Several Asian people have become successful performers in the US. Which ones come to mind?
7. How important is representation? Can you see people that look like you in important positions?
8. Anna May Wong did not like the way that Asians were stereotyped in film. Can we still see stereotypes in films and on TV today? What are those stereotypes?

