

# Archeological Comparison of Ancient Greek and Ancient Egyptian Coins

Pranav Singh  
ANTH 204: Archaeology

## Introduction

The focus of my poster is looking at the different coins that were created and used in ancient Greece and ancient Egypt. The main research of my project was determining common styles and material found in both Egyptian and Greek coins and figuring out exactly what the similarities are, if there were any. The Greek and Egyptians seemed interesting to research about and I knew that they were around the same time period so I wanted to know if they had any influence on each other or had any similarities and a good way to figure that out would be to look at coins because they show a lot about what the people believed in and also what materials they had.

## Research Question & Background

Before knowing what my research question was, I knew I wanted to know more about different coins and how they looked and when they were made. I was also interested in what the material that both Egypt and Greece used in their coins and other things like the symbols and styles and how big the coins were. The main way I researched about the different coins was from the museum of anthropology, but I also used other sources to get information about trade and how both civilizations used their coins just to get a better background on both places. All of this research then led me to my research question, What are common styles and materials of Egyptian coins and how do they compare to coins in ancient Greece? The variables I studied were the material, age, size, and style of the coin.

## Methods

### Materials & Location

As far as resources go, I only used online materials and websites like the museum of anthropology and some other sites that gave me more info on the coins.

### Procedure

The first part of my procedure was background research which involved going to different websites and finding information that would help me get a better understanding of the time frames of when the coins were made and how they were made. The next step was creating an excel spreadsheet where I recorded all of the coins, I took notes on from the museum of anthropology. My last step was comparing my research and finding common styles and materials that were used in all of the coins that I recorded in my spreadsheet. From there I was able to answer my research question based on my findings.

## Data for Greek and Egyptian Coins

Egypt				
Location made	Material	Size	Period	Description
Egypt Alexandr	Bronze	.2x1.9	610-641	small bronze coin with two long heads of people
Egypt Alexandr	Bronze	.1x1.5	613-618	Undetermined
Egypt	Bronze	.6x4.1	246-221 B.	Large head of zeus facing right
Egypt Alexandr	Bronze	0.3x0.2 cm	276-277	The coin is Roman and has a head figure facing right

Greece				
Location made	Material(s)	Size (cm)	Period	Description
Greece	Silver	0.4x2.3 cm	392-358 B.C.E	Head of Apollo Greek God
Greece	Silver	.4x2.1 cm	336-323 B.C.E	Head of hercules on one side wear
Greece	Silver	0.5x3.0x2.6cm	316-311 B.C.E	head of Alexander the Great, right facing
Greece	Silver	.4x2.1 cm	311-305 B.C.E	Head of Aphrodite right facing

Table 1. This data was collected from the online collection from the Museum of Anthropology and showcases all the different coins that I found from both ancient Greece and Egypt and how they differ in material, size, and style.

## Picture comparison of Greek and Egyptian coin



Figure 2. The picture on the left is of the Greek coin and the picture on the right is an Egyptian coin. Both coins portray a Greek god, (the left is Apollo and the right is Zeus) but are made of different material.

## Observations

After completing research and comparing my data table on Excel I found that most of the coins that were made in Egypt weren't from the Egyptian culture, they varied from Byzantine and Roman cultures but the coins from Greece originated from Greek culture. The main differences I found were the material of the coins and also the size. Coins made in Egypt were primarily made from bronze metal and coins from Greece were primarily made from silver metal. This shows that they was most likely a better source of bronze in Egypt and a better source of silver in Greece. The main similarities were the symbols and people that were portrayed on the coins. A lot of the coins from both places had the faces of Greek gods on them but for a couple of the Egyptian coins I was not able to figure out what exactly was on the coin. Another thing that I observed was that the Egyptian coins were smaller than the Greek coins.

## Discussion

My data partially supported my hypothesis. In my hypothesis I believed that the Egyptian coins would primarily have symbols involving dogs or cats or things that are seen as symbols in Egypt which was not the case, and my data did not support this. On the other hand, I also believed that the Greek coins would involve faces of famous people or gods which was supported by my data. From my data I found that coins from both places had very similar symbols that involved famous gods or people like Apollo or Zeus, but the material used for the coins were very different. A majority of the Greek coins were made with silver and a majority of the Egyptian coins were made from bronze metal. My study has solved my original question because now I have found the similarities and differences of these coins. For future research I should look into why these differences are, and also look at a wider range of coins.

## Acknowledgements

I mainly used internet resources for this project and didn't talk to anyone besides classmates and my professor. I do want to give a shout out to professor Zovar because she helped me get the idea of creating and excel spreadsheet for my data and also helped answer questions and keep me on track through the zoom meetings.

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