Why Dimes?

Whoosh! The wind blew Sarah's bag right out of her hand. Sarah was on her way to the dollar store to pick up something for her mom. She ran after her bag, which was now on the ground, the things inside scattered all over the sidewalk. She started to pick up her things, when she realized she wasn’t alone. She looked up to see a man with something small in his hand. The man was tall, dark hair with speckles of grey, with a very friendly smile. Sarah fumbled to her feet, and the man exclaimed “I just noticed that you had dropped your dime, I thought I would give it back.”

Then the man handed her the dime and started off. “Wait!” Called Sarah, “Thank you for picking that up for me, here you can have it I don’t really need it.”

As Sarah started to hand the man the dime he said “Dimes are very important even though they are only worth 10 cents they are made of precious resources.”

“What?! No they aren’t, they're just hunks of metal, they aren’t important.” exclaimed Sarah. “

Of course they are important, they are 91.63% copper, and 8.33% nickel. Both copper and nickel are very important metals in society.” The man told Sarah.

Sarah stared at the man, she still didn’t think that something like a dime, or anything it was made of was important. “Why does it matter what it’s made of, it’s still not worth anything!” Then Sarah took the dime and held it over the street drain that was by them.

“Stop! The metals in that are nonrenewable!”

Sarah paused, looking at the man confused. “Nonrenewable means that we can use it up, there is only so much copper and nickel in the world, we can’t afford to be so careless.” The man explained.

“Oh! Why didn’t you just say that? I don’t want to hurt the planet!” Sarah said as she moved the dime away from the drain and into her pocket, but there was still one more thing Sarah really wanted to know, “I have one more question, where nickel and copper mined are and why they are so important?”

“Oh well that’s an easy one! Nickel is found in Russia, **Canada**, Australia, and New Caledonia. It is also found in earth's core so when volcanoes erupt sometimes there is nickel in the lava. Copper is found in **Canada**, The United States, Chile, Indonesia, and Peru. We have many uses for both of these metals. We use copper for wires, electrical generators and motors, radio and TV sets, radiators, air conditioners and home heating systems. Nickel is used in many types of alloys such as invar, Monel, Inconel, and the hastelloys. You see, we really do need to preserve our resources, or one day we might be without the things that help us in everyday life.” explained the man.

“Okay that makes sense, thank you for teaching me about all of this.” Thanked Sarah. Then the man nodded and started walking away. Sarah watched as he left, and then realized that throughout all of this she had still forgotten to get the man’s name. “Wait! What’s your name?” Sarah yelled.

The man turned around smiling, “I’m Mr. Green, and I’m a geology professor at the university, come visit if you ever have any more questions!” Replied the man. With that, Sarah smiled and walked away, she now realized that even though it’s not worth much even dimes are important.

Sources

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