

# **Rectangle Exercise (i.e., We're in the Money)**

**Observing to Learn**

# The Rectangle Activity

- In 2001 and again in 2003, the U.S. Bureau of Engraving made changes to the front and back of the \$20 bill to improve its security.
- Take a sheet of paper and draw two large rectangles on it.
  - In the first rectangle, draw everything that you remember about the front of a new \$20 bill.
  - In the second rectangle, draw everything you remember about the back of a new \$20 bill.



# Compare Your Drawing to the \$20 Bill

Source: The United States Treasury Bureau of Engraving and Printing



# Consider...

- **Next to the \$1 bill, there are more \$20 bills in circulation than any other bill.**
- **Most ATM machines use \$20 bills to provide cash.**

***Yet we still don't remember many details of the \$20 bill!***



# Unfocused vs. Focused Observation

- **Unfocused observation = seeing what may stand out at the moment or things that are obvious to you**
- **Focused observation = closely looking for specific information or evidence.**

# Two Sets of Eyes

- **Did it help to ask another person for help and share your drawing with them?**
- **Did you each remember different parts of the bill?**

# Changes Over Time

- How does the new \$20 bill differ from the old \$20 bill?
- Does it help you remember if I tell you what types of changes they made?
  - Colors
  - Symbols of freedom
  - President's portrait
  - The "20"
- Is it still difficult to remember the details?





THE SERIES 2001 \$20 NOTE, OBERSE



THE SERIES 2001 \$20 NOTE, REVERSE



THE OLD TWENTY, OBERSE



THE OLD TWENTY, REVERSE



## Before and After

- It is easier to see change when you have the old and the new in front of you.
- Small but important changes can be easy to miss.

Source: The United States Treasury Bureau of Engraving and Printing



# What if you had a classroom full of currency?

	Color-Shifting Ink	Purple Ink	Symbol of Freedom: Eagle	Shoulders Blend Into Border of Bill
\$1				
\$5				
\$10				
\$20				
\$50				
\$100				

# Children: The Currency in Your Classroom

- **Teachers deal with this difficulty when trying to assess children's progress.**
- **What lessons can we apply to assessment?**
  - **Focused observation works best.**
  - **Collaborate when collecting information (other teachers, parents, etc.).**
  - **Prepare to identify growth and change:**
    - ◆ **Write down what you observe and when.**
    - ◆ **Record information as soon as possible.**

**Next steps for today...**