

If Benjamin Franklin Got His Way....

To Benjamin Franklin, the selection of the bald eagle was an insult to the new nation. According to Franklin, the eagle "is a bird of bad moral character; he does not get his living honestly. You may have seen him perched in some dead tree where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labor of the fishing hawk and, when that diligent bird has at length taken a fish and is bearing it to his nest for his young ones, the bald eagle pursues him and takes the fish. With all this injustice, he is never in good case."

Franklin was much more enthusiastic about the wild turkey as America's national symbol. He called it a "bird of courage" that "would not hesitate to attack a grenadier of the British guards who should presume to invade his farm yard with a red coat on." Despite Franklin's protests, Congress made the bald eagle America's national symbol. Today, the bald eagle is one of the most ubiquitous symbols of America and appears on the back of the American quarter (among many other places). Pretend Benjamin Franklin got his way and the turkey became America's symbol. Design the "new" reverse side of the quarter considering the turkey as the national symbol.

Current Reverse Side of Quarter	New Reverse Side with Turkey
	