Shiny Silver Coins

Why not make your own silver cleaner?

What to do: In the small container, dissolve the salt and soda in a small amount of water. Place the coins in the water so that it covers them. Fill the small glass or enamel pot with water. Tear the aluminum foil into pieces and add them to the pot. Bring the water in the pot to a boil on the stove. (You may want to ask a parent to assist you) Turn off the heat and let the water stand and cool. Remove the coins from the salt and soda solution. Rinse the coins in the cooled aluminum water and dry them with a soft cloth.

What happens: You are now the proud owner of many shiny, sparkling-clean coins.

Why: Chemical reactions take place among the salt and soda (loosens tarnish) and the aluminum-foil solution. The heat turns the water and aluminum foil into an electrolyte solution, which carries a mild electric current that takes the tarnish off the coins.