

National Symbols

Cross-Curricular Focus: History/Social Sciences



Name: _____

A symbol is something that is a reminder of something else. A country often has national symbols. These symbols help bring people together. Communities get together for special events. Regional communities join together within states or provinces, which unite as a whole nation. People throughout the nation share some traditional symbols. They are able to connect with each other through them. They share pride in the country.

The United States has many national symbols. The flag is a symbol that is easy for all Americans to recognize. It stands for the country. It has one star for each of the 50 states. There are 13 stripes to represent each of the original 13 colonies. Those colonies later became states. Thirty-seven more states joined them to make up the US.

The Bald Eagle is the national bird of the US. It was chosen because it is very independent and free. Choosing an eagle to represent the country tells everyone that the US values freedom and the courage to be independent.

The Statue of Liberty is another very famous American symbol. It was a gift to the people of the US from the people of France in 1885. It represents the spirit of friendship between the two countries. It also shows a shared vision for liberty, which is a synonym for freedom.

The American symbols unite people from many different states. The symbols help them feel like Americans instead of just citizens of their own individual states. They are united into one country.

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What is the purpose of a symbol? _____

2) What do the thirteen stripes on the American flag represent? _____

3) We almost had the turkey as our national bird instead of the American Bald Eagle. Which do you prefer, and why? _____

4) What famous American symbol was a gift from a foreign country? _____

5) Which symbol do you think best represents our country? Why? _____

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