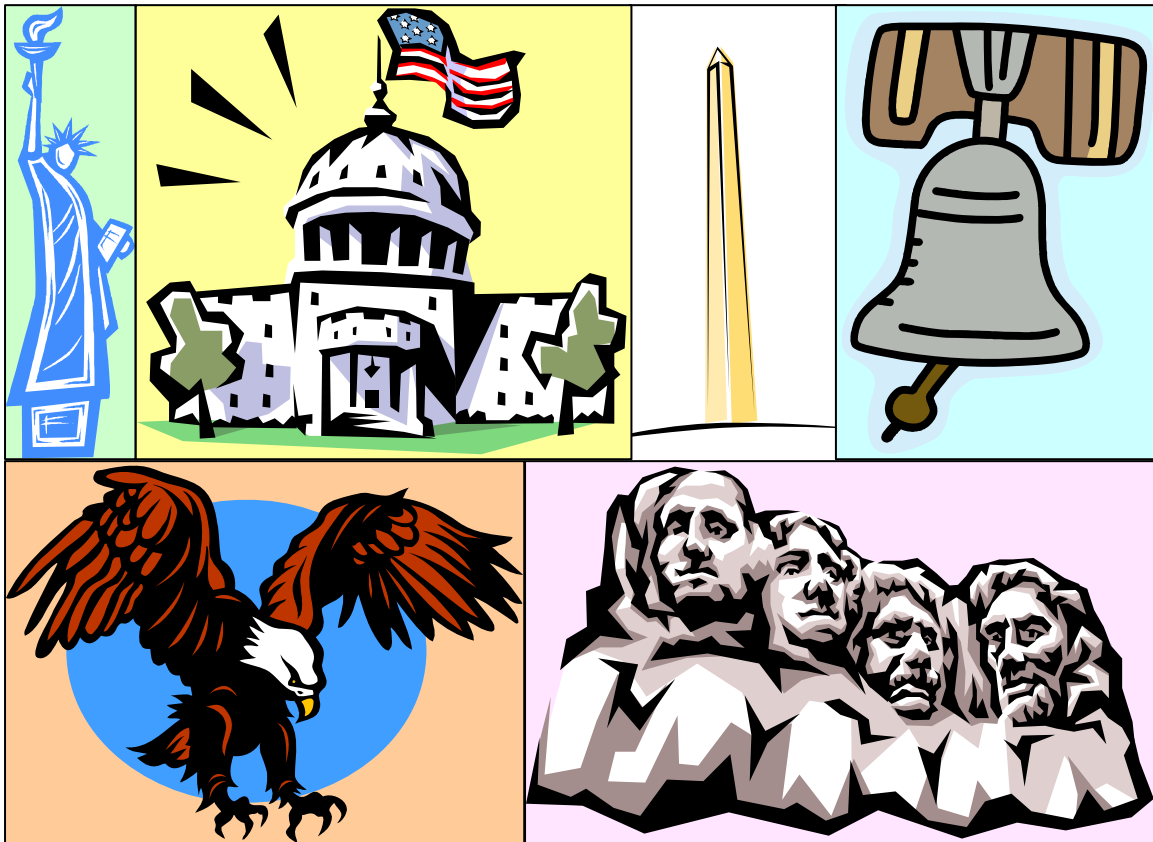


#10564 AMERICA'S SYMBOLS

NEW DIMENSION MEDIA, 2003

Grade Level: K-6

12 Minutes



CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM RELATED RESOURCES

[#3413 THE STORY OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM](#)

[#9436 AMERICAN BALD EAGLE](#)

[#9437 IMAGES OF LIBERTY](#)

[#9438 THE U.S. FLAG](#)

[#9439 THE WHITE HOUSE](#)

[#9441 UNCLE SAM](#)

[#10561 AMERICA'S FLAGS](#)

[#10566 WE PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE](#)

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Grades 1 to 3

America's Symbols

Primary Citizenship Series

Subject Areas: Social Studies, U.S. History, Citizenship

Synopsis: Erin, a young girl, explains the history and significance of America's symbols. Describes the Liberty Bell's role in the Declaration of Independence and explains how it became known as a symbol of American freedom. Reveals the bird Benjamin Franklin thought would best represent the United States before the bald eagle was chosen as the national bird. Explains the meaning of the Great Seal of the United States. Tells the story behind Uncle Sam and shows how the symbol has changed over the years. Explores the significance of the Statue of Liberty as a symbol of friendly relations with France, and as a symbol of hope for immigrants. Also explains the significance of the national symbols found in Washington, D.C., including the White House, the Capitol Building, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to explain the history and significance of America's symbols
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to trace the history of the Liberty Bell and discuss the freedoms it represents
- Objective 3)** Students will be able explain why the bald eagle was chosen as the national bird of the United States
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to explain the symbolism found in the Great Seal of the United States
- Objective 5)** Students will be able to tell the story of how Uncle Sam came to represent the United States, how the symbol has changed, and how the symbol is used today
- Objective 6)** Students will be able to discuss the history of the Statue of Liberty and its special significance to immigrants
- Objective 7)** Students will be able to describe the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, and Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

1. Have a class discussion about symbols. Ask questions like: What is a symbol? Can you think of any symbols of the United States? Have you ever seen any of these symbols? What do you know about these symbols?
2. **Vocabulary:** nation, Declaration of Independence, American Revolution, liberty, privileges, symbol, native, Civil War, immigrants, honor

Post-Viewing Discussion:

- 1) What do some people think the Liberty Bell was originally made to celebrate? What kinds of freedoms did William Penn give the citizens of Pennsylvania? What does the Liberty Bell stand for today? What kinds of freedoms do we have as Americans?
- 2) What bird did Benjamin Franklin think should represent the United States? Why did he think the turkey would be a good symbol for the United States? What bird did the founding fathers choose instead of the turkey? Do you think the turkey or the bald eagle is a better symbol for the United States? Why?
- 3) What symbols are found on our national seal? What is the significance of the number 13? The arrows? The olive branch?
- 4) Who was the original Uncle Sam? What did he do for American troops in the War of 1812? Who does Uncle Sam look like? What kinds of things does Uncle Sam encourage Americans to do?
- 5) What country gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States? What does the statue symbolize? What does the Statue of Liberty mean to immigrants?
- 6) Who does the Washington Monument honor? Who does the Lincoln Memorial honor? What important events happened at the Lincoln Memorial? Who does the Vietnam Veterans Memorial honor? What is written on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Ask students to think of other symbols that represent the United States, their state, city, or culture. Give students some time to draw a picture of one of the symbols and write a paragraph about what the symbol represents. If time allows, have students present their symbols to the class and explain what the symbols mean, and how they show the meanings.
- 2) Look at pictures of the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, and Vietnam Memorial. Have students work in groups to brainstorm ideas for a new monument. Students must decide who or what the monument will honor, where the monument will be located, and what it will look like.

Related New Dimension Media Titles:

- America's Flags
- We Become Citizens
- We Pledge Allegiance
- America's National Holidays
- We Vote
- America's Songs of Liberty

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