

# American Symbols of Freedom



## TEACHER'S GUIDE Grade 3-8

## Program Overview and Objective

In this program students will come to understand some of the rights and responsibilities we have as American citizens and the importance of participating in our democracy. The program explores the history and development of seven American icons of liberty recognized around the world.

Students will learn about how the America’s founding fathers came to decide upon the design of the American flag, its colors and what those colors represented.

The program discusses the Pledge of Allegiance, what it means and the history behind the pledge. The video also explores the various elements that make up the Great Seal of the United States and the origins of Uncle Sam.

Students will learn the history of the “Star Spangled Banner” and how the simple poem developed and grew into America’s national anthem. In addition, students will come to understand the importance of Independence Hall in Philadelphia and it’s role in the establishment of our country.

On September 11, 2001 America was attacked and the Twin Towers in New York City were destroyed. On that site was built a new symbol of American freedom called the Freedom Tower. The program examines the various symbols that were used in the design of the building that now represents American liberty.

### KEY VOCABULARY TERMS

Allegiance  
Indivisible  
Pledge  
Republic  
Symbol

Word or Term	Definition
Allegiance	Loyalty or commitment to a person, group or cause
Indivisible	Unable to be divided
Pledge	A promise
Republic	A government where representatives are elected by the people
Symbol	A thing that represents or stands for something else

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did the first American flag have 13 stripes and 13 stars?
2. What is our national motto? What does it mean?
3. The Statue of Liberty is a gift from France. What event was it made to celebrate?
4. In the Seal of the United States an eagle holds 13 arrows. What do the arrows represent?

## ACTIVITIES

### 1. A New Symbol of Freedom

The Bald Eagle is America's national bird. Recently, the senate passed a bill to make the bison our national animal.

1. Have your students create a poster that celebrates the bison as our national animal.
2. You can also have students design money or a new seal of America that features the bison.
3. Tell your students to write an opinion as to why the bison is a good choice as a symbol of the United States.
4. Ask your students if they have another animal in mind to be our national animal. Tell them to write a letter to their senator supporting their reasons why their animal would be a good American symbol of freedom.

### 2. Your Favorite Symbol

Have your students choose the symbol of freedom they like the most. Tell them to go online and find different ways in which the symbol is used. Have them print those images and create a collage that demonstrates how the symbols are used.