

American Symbols

Teacher's Guide

Published by Red Brick® Learning,
7825 Telegraph Road, Bloomington, Minnesota 55438

<http://www.redbricklearning.com>

Copyright © 2007 Red Brick® Learning. All rights reserved.

Created by Kent Publishing Services, Inc.

Edited by Jerry Ruff, Editorial Group Manager, Red Brick® Learning
Designed by Gene Bentdahl, Design Group Manager, Red Brick® Learning

No part of this book, with the exception of the blackline masters, may be reproduced without permission from the publisher. The publisher takes no responsibility for the use of any materials or methods described in this book, nor for the products thereof. Printed in the United States of America.

Teachers using *American Symbols Teacher's Guide* may reproduce the blackline master sheets in quantities for classroom use.

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	4
The Bald Eagle	5
The Bill of Rights.....	6
The Great Seal of the United States	7
The Liberty Bell.....	8
Our American Flag	9
Our National Anthem	10
The Pledge of Allegiance.....	11
The Statue of Liberty	12
The U.S. Constitution	13
The White House.....	14
Answer Key	15

Introduction

The *American Symbols* books use color illustrations and a nonfiction format to introduce readers to the important symbols that represent the United States. With a key figure from American history serving as “guide,” students will learn about the people, events, and symbols that have come to represent the freedoms and national identity of the United States of America.

The series is designed to be flexible in meeting your classroom needs. Each book can be used as a read-aloud for prereaders, as shared reading for emergent and early readers, or as independent reading by proficient readers. In addition, *American Symbols* is a particularly valuable series for introducing ELL students to an understanding and appreciation of key symbols and artifacts of U.S. history, while also developing reading and language skills.

Use the *American Symbols* books to model the reading process and teach comprehension and vocabulary strategies. Share these books out loud to allow even your most minimally skilled readers access to the standards-based content they contain. The *American Symbols* series, used in tandem with this teacher’s guide, promotes discussion, problem-solving, and critical thinking by students. Assess students’ comprehension using the blackline masters, which have been created to simulate the sort of standardized testing students are likely to encounter.

Follow these general guidelines when introducing each *American Symbols* book to students.

- Introduce the book and discuss with students the topic in order to tap their prior knowledge and start them thinking and predicting what will follow.
- Explain to students that they will learn about an American symbol as they read and discuss the book together.
- Take a walk through the book before reading. Look at the cover. What do you think this book may be about? Talk about the table of contents and what its purpose is. At the back of the book, discuss together the purpose of the facts list, glossary, “To Learn More” section, and index.

- Read the book through as naturally as possible with few stops. Occasionally stop to ask questions such as, “Do the pictures help you understand the author’s words? What do the chapter titles tell you? Why is some information placed in a blue box on the bottom of the page? Is the story told in a certain order? Can you describe what the order is?”
- After reading the body of the book, encourage students to talk about it. What did they learn that was new? What didn’t they understand? Were there words or specific parts of the book they found especially hard to understand? And so on.
- Reread the text again. Encourage students to join in as the text becomes more familiar. Pair up students and do buddy reading or form small groups for reading a page or two.
- After reading the text several times, conduct a mini-lesson to discuss the symbol and the historical content of the book.
- Finally, assess students’ comprehension of key facts from the books. The assessment masters provided in this guide have been created to mirror the format, content, and type of questioning students encounter when taking standardized and proficiency tests. Your assessment thus involves two aspects: how well do the students comprehend key facts from the books, and how well do your students respond to test-taking.
- Each *American Symbols* title also provides excellent opportunities for extending the lesson for further research and learning, with recommended books and Web site access on page 24.

The *American Symbols* books support state standards in history and social studies. Consult www.picturewindowbooks.com to identify standards supported for your state.

The Bald Eagle

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. What bird did Benjamin Franklin want for the national emblem?

- ☐ Ⓐ the bald eagle
- ☐ Ⓑ the osprey
- ☐ Ⓒ the wild turkey
- ☐ Ⓓ the turkey vulture

2. An early legend about the bald eagle showed the bird as a

- ☐ Ⓐ symbol of killing.
- ☐ Ⓑ symbol of bravery.
- ☐ Ⓒ symbol of battle.
- ☐ Ⓓ symbol of freedom.

3. Which is NOT a reason the number of bald eagles shrank?

- ☐ Ⓐ People cleared forests to build towns.
- ☐ Ⓑ People hunted bald eagles for feathers.
- ☐ Ⓒ People cleared forests for farmland.
- ☐ Ⓓ People used pesticides to protect crops.

4. What is the meaning of the word *talons*?

- ☐ Ⓐ claws
- ☐ Ⓑ prey
- ☐ Ⓒ feet
- ☐ Ⓓ wings

Directions: Read and answer the question below. Remember to use your own words!

5. What makes the bald eagle a good symbol to stand for the United States? Write your answer below. Use details from the book to support your answer.

The Bill of Rights

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. Which BEST describes the Constitution?
 - Ⓐ the idea of freedom for all people
 - Ⓑ the basic plan for how the American government works
 - Ⓒ the list of the most important rights citizens have
 - Ⓓ the description of how laws are made

2. Which BEST describes the Bill of Rights?
 - Ⓐ the amendment that freed African-American slaves
 - Ⓑ the basic plan for how the American government works
 - Ⓒ the list of the most important rights citizens have
 - Ⓓ the limits of freedom for Americans

3. The First Amendment protects
 - Ⓐ the right to free speech and a free press.
 - Ⓑ the right to bear arms.
 - Ⓒ the right to unlimited freedom.
 - Ⓓ the right to a fair and speedy trial.

4. Which is NOT a freedom protected by the Bill of Rights?
 - Ⓐ the right to free speech and a free press
 - Ⓑ the right to bear arms
 - Ⓒ the right to unlimited freedom
 - Ⓓ the right to a fair and speedy trial

Directions: Read and answer the question below. Remember to use your own words!

5. The Bill of Rights is several amendments added to the U.S. Constitution. More amendments were added to the Constitution after the Bill of Rights was written. If you could write your own amendment to the Constitution, what would it say? Explain your amendment and tell why you think it should be added to the Constitution.

The Great Seal of the United States

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. Who designed the Great Seal of the United States?

- ☐ Ⓐ Benjamin Franklin
- ☐ Ⓑ Thomas Jefferson
- ☐ Ⓒ John Adams
- ☐ Ⓓ Charles Thomson

2. What does the blue band on the shield represent?

- ☐ Ⓐ unity
- ☐ Ⓑ Congress
- ☐ Ⓒ the first 13 states
- ☐ Ⓓ peace

3. What is the meaning of the word *treaty*?

- ☐ Ⓐ a small reward for solving a problem
- ☐ Ⓑ a seal that represents a country
- ☐ Ⓒ an agreement with another country
- ☐ Ⓓ to set a country apart from others

4. What do the 13 arrows held by the eagle represent?

- ☐ Ⓐ that Americans will fight to stay free
- ☐ Ⓑ coming together to form one strong country
- ☐ Ⓒ the first 13 states
- ☐ Ⓓ long-lasting strength

Directions: Read and answer the question below. Remember to use your own words!

5. What do you think is the most important image on the Great Seal of the United States?
Explain your answer.

The Liberty Bell

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. Where is the Liberty Bell located?
 - Ⓐ Washington, D.C.
 - Ⓑ Boston
 - Ⓒ Philadelphia
 - Ⓓ New York

2. What was the original name of the Liberty Bell?
 - Ⓐ the Independence Bell
 - Ⓑ the Declaration Bell
 - Ⓒ the Freedom Bell
 - Ⓓ the State House Bell

3. Which is NOT a meaning of the word *founder*? (Tip: you will probably need to use a dictionary to answer this question.)
 - Ⓐ a person who founds or establishes something
 - Ⓑ a person who makes things out of metal
 - Ⓒ a person who writes laws
 - Ⓓ to sink

4. Why did early settlers need a bell?
 - Ⓐ to declare their freedom
 - Ⓑ to announce important events
 - Ⓒ to put an end to slavery
 - Ⓓ to trade with Great Britain

Directions: Read and answer the question below. Remember to use your own words!

5. If you could ring the Liberty Bell on only one occasion, what would it be? Explain why you chose this occasion.

Our American Flag

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. Soldiers carried different flags during the Revolutionary War. What effect did this have?
 - Ⓐ They fought over what was the best flag design.
 - Ⓑ They did not know who was a friend and who was an enemy.
 - Ⓒ The British could easily tell who the colonists were.
 - Ⓓ The colonists could easily sneak up on British soldiers.

2. Who designed the first U.S. flag?
 - Ⓐ Betsy Ross
 - Ⓑ Francis Scott Key
 - Ⓒ Mary Pickersgill
 - Ⓓ many people

3. Which is NOT a rule about the flag?
 - Ⓐ It should be flown only during the day.
 - Ⓑ It can be flown at night if properly lit.
 - Ⓒ Each person should fly the flag.
 - Ⓓ It should not touch the ground.

4. What was the first agreed upon flag called?
 - Ⓐ the Grand Union Flag
 - Ⓑ the British Union Flag
 - Ⓒ the Fort McHenry Flag
 - Ⓓ the Star-Spangled Banner

Directions: Read and answer the question below. Remember to use your own words!

5. In your own words, describe the history of the American flag.

Our National Anthem

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. Read the following paragraph.

A national anthem is a country's special patriotic song. By singing it, people show that they have pride in their country. Most countries have national anthems.

What word in the paragraph gives you the BEST clue to the meaning of *patriotic*?

- Ⓐ *anthem*
 - Ⓑ *country*
 - Ⓒ *special*
 - Ⓓ *pride*
2. Why was Francis Scott Key aboard a British ship during the attack on Fort McHenry?
- Ⓐ He had been captured and put in prison.
 - Ⓑ He was trying to help a friend who had been captured.
 - Ⓒ He was on his way back to Great Britain.
 - Ⓓ He had asked to write about the battle.
3. When did the Star-Spangled Banner become the national anthem?
- Ⓐ when Herbert Hoover was president
 - Ⓑ during the attack on Fort McHenry
 - Ⓒ when the colonists won their freedom from Great Britain
 - Ⓓ when newspapers throughout the country printed it
4. When was the Star-Spangled Banner written?
- Ⓐ during the American Revolution
 - Ⓑ during the War of 1812
 - Ⓒ during World War I
 - Ⓓ during the Civil War

Directions: Read and answer the question below. Remember to use your own words!

5. People sing a national anthem to show they love their country and are proud of it. Imagine you have to write a school anthem or a family anthem. Write the words to your school or family anthem below.

The Pledge of Allegiance

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. The Pledge of Allegiance was written to celebrate
 - Ⓐ Washington's Birthday.
 - Ⓑ Independence Day.
 - Ⓒ Columbus Day.
 - Ⓓ Veterans Day.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance was originally written for
 - Ⓐ teachers.
 - Ⓑ soldiers.
 - Ⓒ students.
 - Ⓓ a newspaper.

3. What is a pledge?
 - Ⓐ a promise
 - Ⓑ loyalty
 - Ⓒ a vote
 - Ⓓ a country

4. What is a republic?
 - Ⓐ an indivisible nation
 - Ⓑ a country that keeps God's laws
 - Ⓒ an election
 - Ⓓ a government where people vote to elect their leaders

Directions: Read and answer the question below. Remember to use your own words!

5. When people say the Pledge of Allegiance, they face the flag, place their hands over their hearts, and remove their hats. Explain why these actions are important when reciting the pledge.

The Statue of Liberty

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. The Statue of Liberty was a gift from the country of
 - Ⓐ Canada.
 - Ⓑ Mexico.
 - Ⓒ Great Britain.
 - Ⓓ France.

2. For immigrants, the Statue of Liberty symbolizes
 - Ⓐ loyalty.
 - Ⓑ freedom.
 - Ⓒ power.
 - Ⓓ slavery.

3. What is the meaning of the word *pedestal*?
 - Ⓐ base
 - Ⓑ statue
 - Ⓒ push
 - Ⓓ top

4. What is the tablet a symbol for?
 - Ⓐ truth
 - Ⓑ laws
 - Ⓒ freedom
 - Ⓓ power

Directions: Read and answer the question below. Remember to use your own words!

5. Explain why the French presented the United States with the gift of the Statue of Liberty.

The U.S. Constitution

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. The U.S. Constitution is a symbol of
 - Ⓐ independence.
 - Ⓑ loyalty.
 - Ⓒ democracy.
 - Ⓓ power.

2. Which part of the Constitution explains the branches of government?
 - Ⓐ the Articles
 - Ⓑ the Preamble
 - Ⓒ the Bill of Rights
 - Ⓓ the Amendments

3. Which branch of government is made up of the Congress?
 - Ⓐ the Cabinet
 - Ⓑ the Judicial
 - Ⓒ the Executive
 - Ⓓ the Legislative

4. What is the meaning of the word *delegate*?
 - Ⓐ a person who is chosen to speak for others
 - Ⓑ to pass a law by voting
 - Ⓒ an addition or correction
 - Ⓓ an object that stands for something else

Directions: Read and answer the question below. Remember to use your own words!

5. For more than 200 years, the Constitution has kept the U.S. government strong. Why do you think that is? Explain your answer.

The White House

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. The name of the president's office is the
 - Ⓐ Situation Room.
 - Ⓑ Oval Office.
 - Ⓒ East Wing.
 - Ⓓ Cabinet Room.

2. Which president picked the location for the White House?
 - Ⓐ George Washington
 - Ⓑ John Adams
 - Ⓒ James Hoban
 - Ⓓ Theodore Roosevelt

3. The White House was set on fire during the
 - Ⓐ Revolutionary War.
 - Ⓑ War of 1812.
 - Ⓒ Civil War.
 - Ⓓ Spanish-American War.

4. What is the meaning of the word *corridor*?
 - Ⓐ staircase
 - Ⓑ hallway
 - Ⓒ meeting room
 - Ⓓ guest room

Directions: Read and answer the question below. Remember to use your own words!

5. Imagine you are elected president of the United States. You may now redecorate the Oval Office to suit your tastes. How will you decorate it? What will you include in the office? Explain your choices.

Answer Key

Page 5: The Bald Eagle

1. C
2. D
3. B
4. A
5. Responses might describe the bald eagle as strong, courageous, proud, loyal, and beautiful. Students might also note that it lives only in North America. They should describe how these traits and the bald eagle's location symbolize the nation.

Page 6: The Bill of Rights

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. C
5. Amendments will vary, but arguments for including it to the Constitution should be well defended.

Page 7: The Great Seal of the United States

1. D
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. The choice of the most important symbol will vary, but should be appropriately explained and defended.

Page 8: The Liberty Bell

1. C
2. D
3. C
4. B
5. Answer will vary, but should show an appropriate use of the Liberty Bell.

Page 9: Our American Flag

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. A
5. The history should include the reasons for creating one common flag, what the design of the flag means, and how the flag has changed over the years.

Page 10: Our National Anthem

1. D
2. B
3. A
4. B
5. Responses will vary, but songs should show love and pride for school or family.

Page 11: The Pledge of Allegiance

1. C
2. C
3. A
4. D
5. Responses should indicate that these actions show a person's respect, pride, and loyalty to the United States.

Page 12: The Statue of Liberty

1. D
2. B
3. A
4. B
5. The French fought alongside the Americans during the Revolutionary War. The Statue of Liberty was recognition for the Americans' fight for freedom.

Page 13: The U.S. Constitution

1. C
2. A
3. D
4. A
5. Answer will vary, but should show an understanding of the principles of the Constitution, including the division of power among the branches of government and the freedoms guaranteed under the Bill of Rights.

Page 14: The White House

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. B
5. Responses will vary.

Notes

[illegible]