

National Symbols



LEVEL B-1 • Written by Elfrieda H. Hiebert



**The Statue of Liberty is
in New York Harbor.**

Symbols of the United States

You have seen the United States flag flying at your school. You can see pictures of the bald eagle on money. The flag and the bald eagle are symbols of the United States. When people see these symbols, they think about things that are important to the country.

Freedom was important to the people who started this country. They wanted freedom for everyone. When people who live in the United States see symbols like the flag or the bald eagle, they think about things that are important to them like freedom.

Key Notes:

What do people think when they see symbols of the United States?



The stars and stripes on the U.S. flag are symbols.

Stars and Stripes

Sometimes the flag of the United States is called the Stars and Stripes. A look at the flag will tell you why. Each star on the flag stands for a state in the United States. Every time a new state was added to the United States, a star was added to the flag. The flag now has 50 stars.

There are also 13 stripes on the flag. The number of stripes stays the same. The stripes stand for the areas that became the first 13 states in the United States.

Key Notes:

Why is the U.S. flag called the Stars and Stripes?



Red, white, and blue is everywhere on July 4th.

Red, White, and Blue

If you like a sports team, you know that the team wears certain colors. Colors can be symbols. People who want to show they like a sports team wear the colors of that team.

The colors red, white, and blue are symbols of the United States. These are the colors on the U.S. flag. On July 4th, people in the United States fly red, white, and blue flags on their houses. People also wear red, white, and blue on July 4th to show they love the United States.

Key Notes:

How can colors be symbols?



The bald eagle is a national symbol.

Bald Eagle

The bald eagle is a bird that is a symbol of the United States. It was picked as a symbol because it is a strong and beautiful bird. The bald eagle is not really bald, though. The white feathers on its head make it look bald. The rest of its feathers are dark.

People used to hunt bald eagles. In the 1970s, there were not many bald eagles left. Laws were passed to keep bald eagles safe. Now, there are four times as many bald eagles as there were in the 1970s.

Key Notes:

What does the bald eagle show about the United States?

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