



Honoring the Spirit of America

www.museumofpatriotism.org

“Who Is Uncle Sam?”

Grades K-2

Objective: The student will identify why Uncle Sam is a symbol of our country and list facts about Uncle Sam.

Materials:

- Summaries of Uncle Sam:
 - <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/symbols/unclesam.html>
 - http://home.nycap.rr.com/content/us_bio.html
- Picture of Uncle Sam poster:
 - <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/images/tlc0090.jpg>
- Coloring page of Uncle Sam
 - <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/k-2/games/unclesam.html>
- Uncle Sam shape book page
 - <http://www.abcteach.com/shapebooks/general/UncleSamshapebook.htm>
- crayons, pencils

Procedure:

1. Ask students if they have any uncles. Allow them to name them as you write responses on the board. Ask if they knew that they had an uncle named “Sam.” Explain that “Uncle Sam” is a reference that people sometimes make to our government. Explain the background story behind the origination of the term Uncle Sam using the two sites listed above.
2. Explain that after the war of 1812, “Uncle Sam” began to be shown as a patriotic man wearing red, white, and blue striped clothes and a tall patriotic hat. His most famous appearance was on a poster that encouraged young men to join the military during wartime. Show students picture of the Uncle Sam poster listed above. Inform students that the poster was created because during that time, our country needed more soldiers for the military.
3. Guide students to create an Uncle Sam hat and beard. The beard could be made by gluing cotton balls to card stock shaped like a beard and secured around the

- head by using string tied over the ears. Have students tell who Uncle Sam is while they are wearing the hat and beard.
4. Next, have older students make a shape book using the web site listed above. The pages will be in the shape of Uncle Sam's hat. Students should write facts they learned about Uncle Sam on the page. Encourage students to draw other patriotic symbols on their pages. Once all students are finished, fasten pages together to create a book.
 5. As students begin to finish, they may work on the coloring page of Uncle Sam.

Assessment:

Evaluate students on their verbal or written description about who Uncle Sam is, and the accuracy of the facts written in the shape book.

Resources:

GeorgiaStandards.org

<http://www.glc.k12.ga.us/BuilderV03/LPTools/LPShared/lpdisplay.asp?LPID=56851>