



Honoring the Spirit of America

www.museumofpatriotism.org

“American and Patriotic Symbols”

Grades: 6-8
English

Objective

- Identify American symbols
- Explain why they are symbols

Character Education Words

- Creativity
- Individuality
- Patriotic

Teacher’s Overview

The idea of symbolism tends to be a difficult concept for students to understand. By using familiar symbols and the patriotic theme, students will be able to grasp this concept with ease. Many students know what the different patriotic symbols are, but they do not know why these things symbolize patriotism.

Materials

- Computers with Internet access and printers
- Magazines with pictures that can be copied or cut out
- Poster board
- Markers

- Paper and pens
- These websites can be very helpful resources:

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/symbols/>

[http://www.bigchalk.com/cgi-bin/WebObjects/WOPortal.woa/Homework/High School/Science/United States History/Special Subjects/American Symbols 48604.html](http://www.bigchalk.com/cgi-bin/WebObjects/WOPortal.woa/Homework/High_School/Science/United_States_History/Special_Subjects/American_Symbols_48604.html)

<http://www.cam-info.net/rref6.html>

Activating Strategy

- Discussion: Name an icon, or symbol, for the following things:
 - a. country music
 - b. television news
 - c. sports
 - d. computers
 - e. fast food

Discuss each answer with students and create a class definition for "symbol."

Activities

- List, as a class, several traditional patriotic symbols, or icons. If the students have trouble conjuring patriotic images, have them reflect on popular movies that portray American history such as The Patriot, Glory, Pearl Harbor, or Saving Private Ryan.
- Next, ask why these symbols represent America.
- Have students brainstorm several American patriotic icons that have emerged over the last 10-20 years
- Students will choose five icons, past and present, and research the history of the symbol, location, picture, and meaning of each symbol
- Students may present their information in a poster, powerpoint, podcast, or auditory presentation

Assessment

- A rubric is attached.
- All information needs to be included in their presentation to receive full credit: pictures, location, history, and meaning of the symbols; proof of research, cited page, and speaking/presenting skills
- All group participants need to turn in an inventory of the work they have done individually and as a group.
- A work cited page needs to be included showing where they obtained their information.
- Students will also be graded on their speaking and presenting skills.

Extending/Refining

- Students can reflect on the evolution of American symbols. How have symbols of American life changed over the course of America's history? If you could create just one symbol for American Patriotism, what would that be? Draw a picture and describe in detail.

Oral Presentation Rubric : Symbols of American Patriotism

Teacher Name: _____

Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Content	Shows a full understanding of the topic.	Shows a good understanding of the topic.	Shows a good understanding of parts of the topic.	Does not seem to understand the topic very well.
Time-Limit	Presentation is 5-6 minutes long.	Presentation is 4 minutes long.	Presentation is 3 minutes long.	Presentation is less than 3 minutes OR more than 6 minutes.
Vocabulary	Uses vocabulary appropriate for the audience. Extends audience vocabulary by defining words that might be new to most of the audience.	Uses vocabulary appropriate for the audience. Includes 1-2 words that might be new to most of the audience, but does not define them.	Uses vocabulary appropriate for the audience. Does not include any vocabulary that might be new to the audience.	Uses several (5 or more) words or phrases that are not understood by the audience.
Speaks Clearly	Speaks clearly and distinctly all (100-95%) the time, and mispronounces no words.	Speaks clearly and distinctly all (100-95%) the time, but mispronounces one word.	Speaks clearly and distinctly most (94-85%) of the time. Mispronounces no more than one word.	Often mumbles or can not be understood OR mispronounces more than one word.
Volume	Volume is loud enough to be heard by all audience members throughout the presentation.	Volume is loud enough to be heard by all audience members at least 90% of the time.	Volume is loud enough to be heard by all audience members at least 80% of the time.	Volume often too soft to be heard by all audience members.

Symbols	Student has all five symbols and has excellent pictures, history of, location, and meaning of all symbols	Student has sufficient information on all five symbols and their history, pictures, location and meaning.	Student is lacking some information on all five symbols or does not have all five symbols of American patriotism.	Student's work is highly incomplete and student shows little understanding of American patriotic symbols.
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