

Symbols of Freedom

by Jeanne and Bradley Weaver

Overview

This book explains objects and institutions that symbolize what is important to Americans.

Literacy Focus

High Frequency Words

country, day, flag, freedom, nation, people, song

Content Words

protest, holiday, symbol, colonies, Pledge of Allegiance, liberty, justice, national anthem, Capitol, elect, government, Congress, Statue of Liberty

Word Attack and Vocabulary Skills

- Adding the suffixes *-ness*, *-ment*, and *-dom* to make nouns

- Using capital letters for proper nouns
- Recognizing time-related language

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- Identifying main idea and details
- Summarizing
- Making connections to one's own experiences

Book Parts and Text Features

- Contents page and glossary
- Headings

- Introduction
- Captions
- Key words in bold-faced type

Writing/Speaking and Listening

- Writing a description of an important national symbol
- Sharing prior knowledge about symbols of freedom
- Discussing why symbols are important

Observe/Assess

See *Oral Reading Records* on page 150 and *Multiple-Choice Test* on page 210.

Social Studies Focus

Content and Thinking Skills

- Explaining what the symbols of a nation mean to its people
- Identifying freedoms of a democracy
- Recognizing that the meanings of symbols are rooted in history

Background Information

American symbols such as the flag, the Statue of Liberty, and the Capitol remind us both of our rights and of our responsibility to exercise and protect them. The American flag is flown by all public entities, from schools to municipal buildings, and by many private businesses and individual families as well.

Correlation to National Standards Social Studies

- Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
- Civic Ideals and Practice

See *Standards Chart* on pages 228–229.

Literacy Focus

Set the Scene

Ask children what they think of when they hear the words *United States of America*. Invite them to tell when they say the Pledge of Allegiance and where the flag is flown. Ask:

What do we celebrate on the Fourth of July? Why do we fly the flag on this day?

Read and Discuss

Cover, Title Page, and Contents Page

Have children look at the cover and title page. Ask:

What is a symbol?

What symbols do you see in these pictures? What do they stand for?

Have children skim the table of contents and predict what symbols of America they will learn about.

Pages 3–4

Read the introduction together. Invite children to tell about how they celebrate the Fourth of July. Point out that symbols are things that often stand for feelings or ideas. Ask:

What ideas do fireworks and flags make you think of?

Pages 6–16

Read and discuss each symbol. Have children describe each symbol and provide details they learned about it. Ask:

What do the stars and stripes on the flag represent?

Why does the national anthem make us proud?

What happens in the Capitol?

Do you think the bald eagle is a good symbol for America?

Why?

Why does the Statue of Liberty carry a torch?

Respond

- Write the words *freedom*, *government*, and *fairness* on the board and have children identify the suffixes *-dom*, *-ment*, and *-ness*. Use each root word in a sentence and have children identify its part of speech. Then have them find the derivatives in the text and verify that they are nouns. Ask children to make nouns from *develop*, *happy*, and *king* by adding the suffixes.

- Remind children that nouns used to name specific people, places, and things are capitalized. Have children find at least five proper nouns in the text and list them. Sort them into categories.

| | | |
|--------|----------------------------|---|
| ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Places | Capital | |
| Things | Statue of Liberty | |
| People | President Abraham Lincoln | |
| Titles | "The Star Spangled Banner" | |



Using Content Words Activity Master, page 104

Have children write the meanings of key words, then draw an illustration and tell the meaning of one symbol.



English Language Learners

Have children locate dates in the text and write sentences explaining what happened on each date. Check to be sure they have used past-tense verbs correctly.

Social Studies Focus

Social Studies Concept

Special events, objects, and places remind us what our nation stands for and how we gained freedom. They express our values and our pride in country.

Activities

Eagle Eyes

Have children explore at school and home to find different places the eagle symbol appears. Talk about how the eagle symbol is used and what effect it has.

Our Flag

Ask children to read about the U.S. flag and its history. Have them draw pictures of the flag as

it has looked at different times in our history. Arrange the drawings on a bulletin board with paragraphs of description.



Symbols Summary Activity Master, page 105

Have children list the symbols and explain their meaning on the chart.

Name _____

Symbols of Freedom

Write the meaning of each word below.

1. **symbol** _____

2. **flag** _____

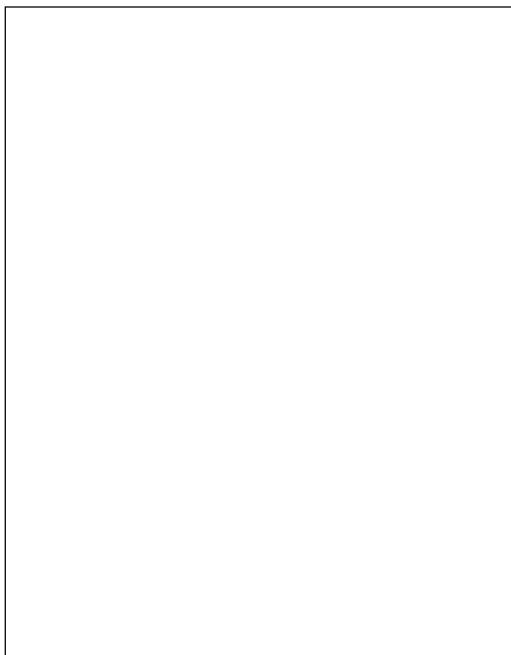
3. **national anthem** _____

4. **Capitol** _____

5. **Congress** _____

6. **Statue of Liberty** _____

Draw a picture to illustrate one of the symbols you read about.
Write a caption telling what the symbol means to you.



Name _____

Symbols of Freedom

For each category, name a symbol from the book. Then write what it means to Americans.

| Category | Name of Symbol | Meaning to Americans |
|----------|----------------|----------------------|
| song | | |
| building | | |
| animal | | |
| statue | | |
| flag | | |