

Patriotic Symbols

Objective(s):

- Students will be able to develop an awareness of patriotic symbols associated with the United States. (e.g., the flag, the bald eagle, and monuments)
- Students will be able to learn the characteristics of each symbol and understand its significance to American history.
- Students will be able to identify how selected customs, symbols reflect an American love of individualism, inventiveness and freedom.

TEKS:

2.14 C, D

Vocabulary:

- Freedom
- Patriotic
- Patriotic symbols
- Bald Eagle
- American Flag
- Liberty bell
- National Monuments
- The Statue of Liberty
- The Washington Monument
- National Buildings
- White House

Materials:

A social studies' rectangular shaped box decorated with the United States flag containing the following:

- 3D cut out of the White house, Statue of Liberty, Washington Memorial
- 5 American flags
- Pictures of the bald eagle, the Liberty Bell, the Statue of Liberty, coins.
- Magnifying glass
- 2 books about the American symbols
- Statues of Liberty crown and torch
- Patriotic hat

Lesson materials:

1. Freedom symbol PowerPoint
2. "America the beautiful" student workbook
3. "All about America symbols" worksheet
4. Vocabulary words list, with pictures

Learning strategies:

1. Teacher will review what a symbol is and identify examples of symbols in the classroom. Explain to students that a symbol brings to mind an idea, and it's something that stands for or suggests something else.

For example, a heart, what do you think of when you see a heart? A heart is a symbol of love.

2. Explain that as Americans we have adopted different things as symbols for the United States, which can be represented by things, buildings and landmarks. Each symbol represents something about our country.
3. Start the lesson talking about the American Flag. Ask them why we have the flag as a symbol and why we pledge our allegiance to it during the morning announcements? The American flag represents a sign of respect and loyalty to America. Count together the number of red stripes, the number of white stripes and the number of stars.

Ask the students what they think each of them represents:

The stars represent our fifty states.

The stripes represent the original 13 colonies.

The color white represents purity.

The color red represents courage.

The color blue represents justice.

4. Give a coin to one student and ask to describe what he/she observes. When they mention an eagle, I will ask why do we have the symbol of an eagle on a coin, and what does it represent?

I will explain that the bald eagle is our national bird and another symbol of America. The bald eagle was chosen as a symbol of America, because of its long life span, strength and majestic ways as it flies in the sky and gives the impression of freedom. Because America is the land of the free, the eagle was chosen as a national symbol.

5. The Liberty Bell, is located in Philadelphia Pennsylvania, the bell rang for the first time when America became a free nation and gained its independence. The sound the bell made was the sound of freedom. This is why the liberty bell is now one of our national symbols.
6. After explaining about the important patriotic symbols, explain to them that the United States also has many important buildings (White House) and statues (The statue of liberty, Washington monument) and landmarks (Rush Mountmore) which are considered important symbols.
7. Show a picture of the White House; ask the student if they recognize this symbol? Who lives in this house?

The White House is where the President of the United States lives and works; it stands for the Presidency, The United States government, and the American people. To figure out if they understand the meaning of freedom, ask them why do they think that the American flag, flies over the white house? What does it represent?

8. Then show them a picture of the Statue of Liberty and tell them to describe it and think about what it represents.
It represents the freedom people hope to find in America. It also stands for peace, friendship and immigration.

Box: "Little freedom symbol museum"

After the lesson, allow the students to be investigators using magnifying glasses, to pay close attention to all the information in the box since it has a lot of valuable information since it's designed like a little "Freedom symbols museum".

Assessment: "America the Beautiful" workbook or a quick "American symbols" worksheet.

Including parents/family/community inclusion:

Homework will be to look for the important patriotic symbols around their house and their community. Also they will ask their parents for help on how they would feel if one or more of their liberties were taken away and to write about some of the freedoms they enjoy and what they would do if it was taken away.

Academic reinforcement / extension:

I will explain to them that all around America there are symbols that remind us of the freedom we enjoy just being Americans. Being proud of America is called patriotism. Each American symbol represents our country in a different way and helps all citizens show their patriotism and prove how proud we are to be Americans.



