

Additional titles
from **film ideas, Inc.**
in the
SYMBOLS OF AMERICA
5 PART SERIES

Uncle Sam

The White House

The American Bald Eagle

Images of Liberty

U.S. Flag



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A collage of American symbols including the Liberty Bell, the Statue of Liberty, the American Flag, and the White House.

**Symbols
of America**
5 Part Series

The
**AMERICAN
BALD EAGLE**

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE

INTRODUCTION TO SERIES

The purpose of this video series is to acquaint young children to the importance of American symbols. It is designed to teach how symbols are objects or pictures that represents a much larger idea. Throughout American history symbols have played a significant role in how ideas have become an influential fabric of our culture. American symbols represent and communicate who we are and what we value as a society. As children learn the importance of symbolism they will understand their contribution to American history and how symbols have evolved to help shape and define a nation – The United States of America.

As a complementary device with each video, an instructional guide suggests exercises to help aid teachers, parents and students. These interactive exercises will reinforce and further develop a child's level of comprehension about the importance of symbols and the joy of learning.

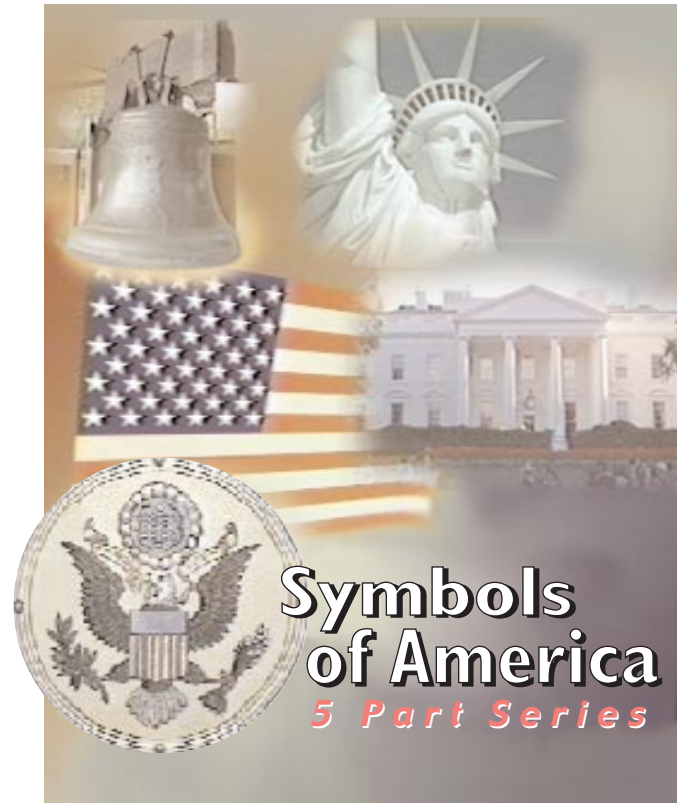
The instructional guide provides:

Child-friendly **exercises!** ✓

Fun-to-do **follow-up activities!** ✓

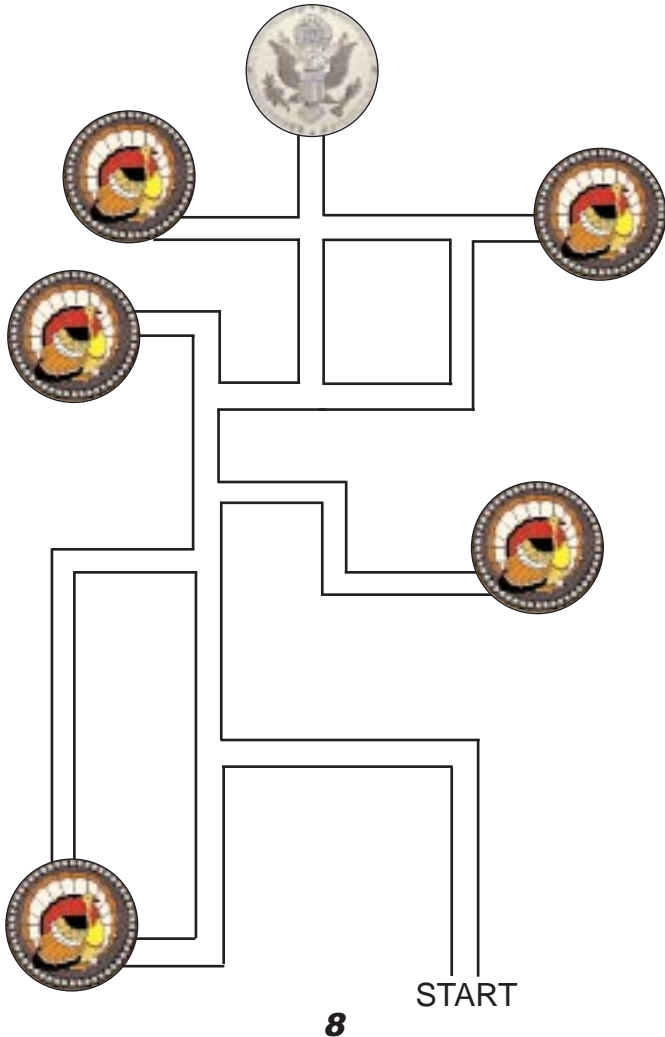
Easy-to-learn **reinforcement Q & A!** ✓

E-Guides available at
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Ben Franklin disapproved the choice of the bald eagle for the national seal. He instead wanted the wild turkey to become the choice for America's national seal. Follow the maze to the Bald Eagle Seal but watch out for those wild turkeys.



The American Bald Eagle

Spreading its wings and soaring high above the skies with majesty and strength, representing freedom and liberty, is our great national seal the American Bald Eagle. The purpose of this video is to educate children about its history and the importance of its symbolic representation. On July 4th, 1776 the Continental Congress assigned Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams to create a national seal. After six years of formidable debate, the American Bald Eagle was finally chosen on June 20, 1782 as our official national seal. Like a fledgling, America as a newly born nation was now ready to fly and find its way in history. Selected because of its strength, majesty and grace, the American Bald Eagle proudly represents the great ideals of American freedom and liberty. As the national seal and badge of authority, children will learn about the many ways this great American symbol is used. From its mark on official documents and treaties, to the image of presidential seal, to the final print on American currency, the American Bald Eagle is a symbol worth learning about.

Children will enjoy how this symbol represents so many different ideas. Did you know that the 13 arrows clutched in the eagle's right claw represents America's ability to defend itself; or that the olive branch with 13 leaves clutched in the eagle's left claw represents America's belief in peace; or that the scroll held in the eagle's beak is written in latin, "E Pluribus Unum" which means "Out Of Many One". These are just a few of the fun-filled-facts children will learn while studying our great national seal-The American Bald Eagle.

Program Objectives

After viewing the program, children should understand:

- what symbols are and what "The American Bald Eagle" represents.
- the history of "The American Bald Eagle".
- how "The American Bald Eagle" was chosen to become America's official national seal.
- the different forms/images associated with "The American Bald Eagle" and how they are used.

VOCABULARY:

American Bald Eagle: *As an American symbol it represents freedom and liberty and is considered America's great national seal/emblem. It's primary uses include: presidential seal; mark on official documents and treaties; printed on American currency.*

Charles Thomson: *Head of the third committee who in 1782 after six years of debate finally chose the American Bald Eagle as the nation's official seal.*

Currency: *Another name for money. One of the most common places to find the American Bald Eagle is on the back of a one dollar bill.*

Declaration of Independence: *A document signed on July 4th, 1776 by the representatives of the 13 original American colonies declaring their independence from British authority.*

E Pluribus Unum: *Latin phrase written on the scroll held in the eagle's beak. Translation means "Out of Many One".*

Fledgling: *A young bird ready to leave its nest and fly for the first time.*

National Seal: *Emblem used by nations to mark official documents.*

Symbol: *An object or picture that represents a much larger idea.*

Reinforcement Q&A:

Review the video to answer the following questions:

1) On July 4th, 1776 three men were assigned by the Continental Congress to create a new national seal. Name these three men.

2) What does the number 13 represent in the American Bald Eagle?

3) What is on the reverse side of America's great national seal?

4) Name some of the different ways on how the American Bald Eagle is used.

5) The latin phrase "E Pluribus Unum" is written on the scroll held in the eagle's beak. What does this latin phrase mean?

- 1) Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams
- 2) The 13 original colonies.
- 3) A Pyramid
- 4) Presidential seal, currency, mark on official documents
- 5) "Out of Many One": From the separate 13 colonies different people (the many) came together to form a new country (the one).

Follow-Up Activities:

1) The bald eagle has many unique characteristics which is why America chose it to be its national seal. Instruct the children to write a brief description of this bird's biological profile and how it qualifies to be America's national seal.

For example; its majesty, strength & grace, sharp eyesight etc.

2) Have the children tour your school or community and document the symbols they see. After writing them down on a piece of paper have the children research the symbol using resources like the internet to describe what each symbol represents. During their research perhaps have them write a short historical perspective on the origins of the symbol.

3) On the same day that the Declaration of Independence was signed July 4th 1776, the Continental Congress assigned Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams to create a national seal for the new country. Like America's founding fathers, assemble the students into small groups and have them create a seal for your school or community. Then have the groups explain their created seal to the rest of the class. For example what does the seal represent? Are there any hidden symbols in the seal like the American Bald Eagle's 13 arrows, 13 leaves on the olive branch or 13 stars above its head etc.

Exercise #1:

Have the students study the vocabulary list on page 2. Then write the number of the vocabulary word on the solid black line next to its definition.

Vocabulary List:

1) *Currency*

3) *American Bald Eagle*

2) *National Seal*

4) *Fledgling*

_____ *Considered America's great national seal/emblem.*

_____ *A young bird ready to leave the nest and fly for the first time.*

_____ *Another word for money.*

_____ *Emblem used by nations to mark official documents.*

Exercise #2:

Numbered 1-3 are important parts to the American Bald Eagle. On a separate piece of paper name the part and what it represents. If needed use the list or review the video.



- 1) 13 Stars - Known as the Glory these stars represent a new country.
 - 2) Olive branch with 13 leaves - Represents America's belief in Peace.
 - 3) 13 Arrows - Represents America's ability to defend itself.
- ... The number 13 represents the 13 original colonies ...

Exercise #4:

A symbol is an object or picture that represents a much larger idea. Circle the correct answer which best describes what America's national seal "The American Bald Eagle" represents.

- Pet birds
- Flying Airplanes
- A painting or drawing
- American freedom & liberty
- Countries around the world
- Famous movie actors and actresses