

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



**film Ideas, Inc.**

308 North Wolf Rd. Wheeling, IL 60090

TEL: 1-800-475-3456 or 847-419-0255

FAX: 847-419-8933 E-MAIL: [filmid@ais.net](mailto:filmid@ais.net)

WEB SITE: [www.filmideas.com](http://www.filmideas.com)

Copyright © 2002

A collage of American symbols including the Liberty Bell, the Statue of Liberty, the American Flag, the White House, and Uncle Sam. The background is a light blue gradient.

**Symbols  
of America**  
*5 Part Series*

The  
**WHITE  
HOUSE**

**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.

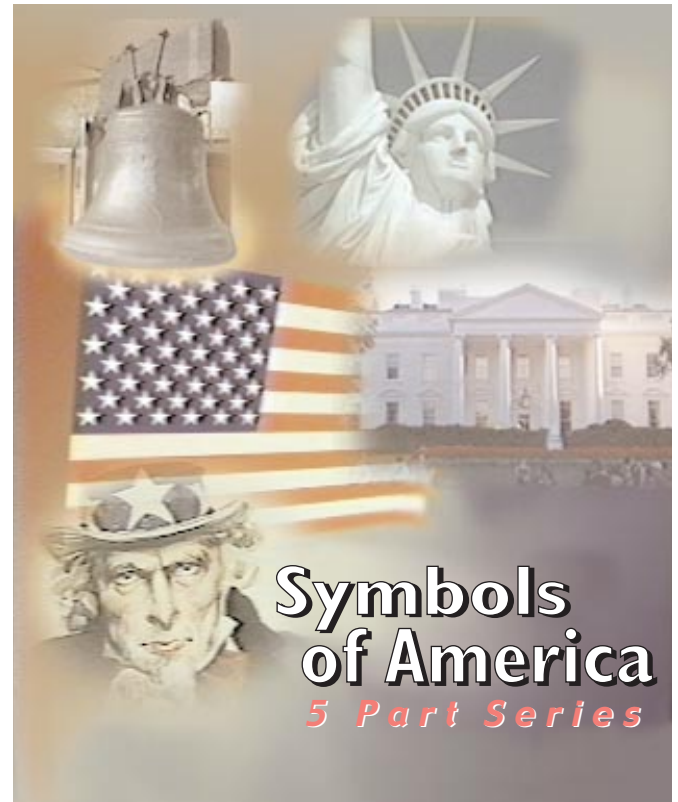
The instructional guide provides:

Child-friendly **exercises!** ✓

Fun-to-do **follow-up activities!** ✓

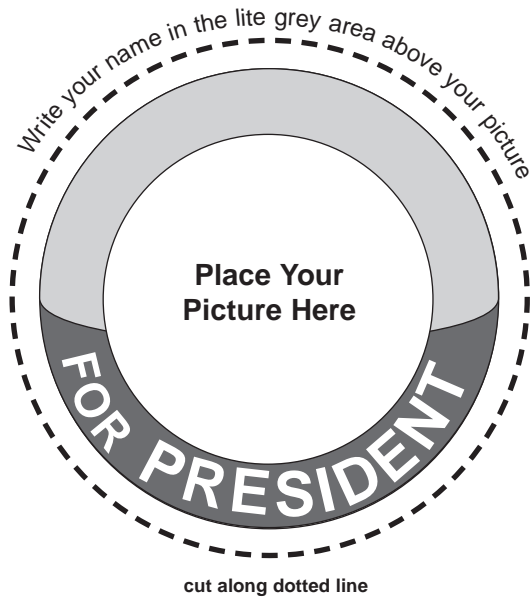
Easy-to-learn **reinforcement Q & A!** ✓

E-Guides available at  
[www.filmideas.com](http://www.filmideas.com)



Permission granted to copy the  
exercises provided in this guide.  
For educational use ONLY.

After students successfully complete the exercises chosen in this guide, have them cut out and place their picture in the “Vote For Me” election button. Who knows if elected as a future president you too may some day live in the White House.



## The WHITE HOUSE

The purpose of “The White House” is to teach children how 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is much more than the residence for the President of the United States. It is recognized around the world as a symbol which represents American democracy, freedom and self-determination.

Children will be fascinated as they learn about this home’s varied and interesting past. Our nation’s first President, George Washington, personally chose the site for the White House but was the only President never to reside there. During battles with Britain, the home was almost burned to the ground, however it withstood the ravages of fire and eventually emerged as a prominent symbol for American ideals. Throughout history American Presidents and their families have enjoyed the surroundings of this historic relic. Students will experience the historic significance of such rooms like the oval office, treaty room, and famous East room. They will also relive the legendary rose garden ceremonies like President Kennedy honoring Alan Shepard as the first man in space, or President Clinton acknowledging the 1999 World Cup champion women’s soccer team.

From honoring visiting dignitaries throughout the world to representing the true principles of American democracy, freedom, and self determination—The White House is an American treasure youngsters will appreciate because of its symbolic value, purpose and message.

### Program Objectives

After viewing the program, children should understand:

- what symbols are and what “The White House” represents.
- the history of “The White House”.
- how “The White House” received its name.
- the important people and events involved with the origins and the design of “The White House”.
- the many different forms/images associated with “The White House” and how they are used.

## VOCABULARY:

**White House:** *The residence and office for the President of the United States located at 1600 Pennsylvania ave. Washington, D.C.*

**George Washington:** *First U.S. President and the only president never to live in the White House. Washington chose the official site, in what is now called Washington D.C.*

**James Hoban:** *An Irish architect who originally designed The White House. Construction began in 1792 and took 8 years to complete.*

**John and Abigail Adams:** *John Adams was the second president of the U.S. He along with his wife Abigail became the first people to live in The White House in November of 1800.*

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

**James Madison:** *James Madison was the fourth president of the U.S. and it was during his presidency, while fighting the British in the war of 1812, when the White House nearly burned to the ground. After its repair it obtained the name "White House".*

**Oval Office:** *Room used for the President's daily work activity.*

## Reinforcement Q&A:

Review the video to answer the following questions:

- 1) Where is the White House located and who lives there?
- 2) What does the White House represent? Define democracy.
- 3) What U.S. president never lived in the White House? Why could he not live there?
- 4) Who chose the site for the White House? Who was the first U.S. president to live in the White House?
- 5) How did the White House get its name?
- 6) Name the room used as the President's daily work place? Name other rooms located in the White House?

- 1) Washington D.C. / The U.S. President and President's Family
- 2) Democracy, Freedom, the United States of America, U.S. President / When citizens of a country vote for its leaders to make important decisions.
- 3) George Washington / Because it wasn't built yet
- 4) George Washington / John Adams
- 5) After British soldiers set fire to the home the outside walls were whitewashed thus people began calling it the White House.
- 6) Oval Office / Treaty Room, Cabinet Room, Green Room, Red Room

### Follow-Up Activities:

1) Many different presidents and their families have lived in The White House. Have the children choose a president and then have them write a short historical biography about the president and his family while living in The White House—use the internet to help.

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) As mentioned in the video a symbol represents a much larger idea. Have the children discuss a problem in your school or community. For example, is there confusion in the lunch room cafeteria as to how the children should line up and be served for food and beverages; or is there miscommunication about where certain school supplies should be stored; are certain rooms and school yard areas properly marked for student safety etc. After discussing the problem evaluate whether the problem may be solved by the children creating posters which effectively communicate ideas through symbols.

### 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) *Symbol*

3) *White House*

2) *George Washington*

4) *Oval Office*

\_\_\_\_\_ *American symbol representing democracy, freedom and self determination.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *room used as the President's daily work place.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *an object or picture that represents a much larger idea.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *only U.S. President never to live in the White House.*

**Exercise #2:**

The rooms located in the White House are used for many different occasions. Observe the White House rooms below and on the solid black lines write how each room is used. If needed use the list or review the video.



EAST ROOM



CABINET ROOM

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_



TREATY ROOM



OVAL OFFICE

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) East Room - Important state dinners and receptions.  
2) Cabinet Room - President meets with close advisors.  
3) Treaty Room - Agreements are made between countries.  
4) Oval Office - President's daily work place.

**Exercise #4:**

A symbol is an object or picture that represents a much larger idea. Circle the correct answers which best describes what "The White House" represents.

- Large white houses.
- Home & Office of the President of the United States.
- An art gallery
- American democracy and freedom
- Countries around the world
- Famous movie actors and actresses