

SYMBOL IDENTIFICATION AND INTERPRETATION

Performance Standard (14A/14F/16BUS).D

After reviewing three images portraying patriotic American symbols students will identify the relevant symbol and how it relates to the ideals in the Declaration of Independence and United States Constitution accordingly:

- *Knowledge*: describe the basic ideals in the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Independence;
- *Reasoning*: explain how the symbols illustrate the ideals in the Declaration and Constitution; and
- *Communication*: write an essay that is well-organized, well-focused and well-detailed; express all ideas in a way that provides evidence of knowledge and reasoning processes.

Procedures

1. ***In order to understand and explain basic principles of the United States government (14A), understand the development of United States political ideas and traditions (14F), and understand the development of significant political events (16BUS)***, students should experience sufficient learning opportunities to develop the following:
 - Describe the purpose of the Declaration of Independence, and the Illinois and United States Constitutions,
 - Explain the significance of political symbols and mottoes of the United States (e.g., E Pluribus Unum, the flag, the Statue of Liberty, the bald eagle, the Great Seal, oaths of office), and
 - Interpret the symbolism of the images/icons found on historical memorials, murals, or monuments.
2. Have students review and discuss the assessment task and how the rubric will be used to evaluate their work.
3. The instructor will discuss with the students several of the significant ideals in the Declaration of Independence and United States Constitution. Among these ideas are liberty, civil rights, respect for minority rights, etc.
4. Lead the students in a discussion of the ideals found in the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.
5. Display three symbols of American patriotism; *The Spirit of '76* (a painting of three veterans from the Revolutionary War), the Statue of Liberty, and a national battlefield cemetery.
6. Have the students describe in an essay the basic ideals (principles) of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution and how each of the three symbols illustrate the ideals from both documents.
7. Evaluate each student's work using the Social Science Rubric as follows and add the scores to determine the performance level:
 - *Knowledge*: the description of the ideals in the Declaration of Independence and United States Constitution is complete and accurate.
 - *Reasoning*: the explanation of how each symbol illustrates the ideals is relevant, well-reasoned and logical.
 - *Communication*: the essay is well-organized, well-focused and well-detailed; the knowledge and reasoning were completely and effectively communicated.

Examples of Student Work follow

Time Requirements

- One class period for discussion
- One class period for writing

Resources

- Illustrations of the three symbols.
 - www.gettysburg.com
 - www.state.gov/www/aboutstate
- Social Science Rubric

The Symbols of the U.S.

By Tom Stanley

These are the symbols and what they mean. The American flag. I am going to tell you about the Spirit of '76. And the Statue of Liberty. Also the Bald Eagle. Those are some symbols of the U.S.A.

My first one is, the American flag. The 50 stars are for the 50 states. The 13 stripes are for the 13 colonies. It also represents freedom. Those are reasons for our flag.

My second symbol is, Spirit of '76. It is a picture of Yankee Doodle. The Civil war is what it is about. And it was the 100 anniversary of the declaration of independence. That is the spirit of '76.

The next thing is the Statue of Liberty. It is located in New York. A guy put his mother's face on it. It was a present from France. That is the Statue of Liberty.

Finally, the Bald Eagle. The Bald Eagle I think is becoming extinct. It is not really bald, it just has white feathers on the head. They only live in high trees. That is all I know about the Bald Eagle.

Those are some of the symbols that I can tell you. The American flag, Spirit of '76. And the Statue of Liberty. Also the Bald Eagle. Those are the symbols.

I'm going to tell you about some symbols and what they represent. One is the American flag and statue of liberty. Another is the bald eagle and the spirit of '76. Also there is Gettysburg National cemetery and the Great seal.

One of the symbols is the American flag. Also the American flag represents 13 stripes for the first 13 colonies and 50 stars for all the states. Another is the statue of liberty and it represents freedom and a new land of peace.

Also the bald eagle is a symbol and it represents strength, conquest, and freedom. Also the spirit of '76 is also a symbol it represents 1876 (Yankee Doodle) and 100 anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Another symbol is Gettysburg National cemetery and it represents a place to honor soldiers that fought for freedom. The Great seal is a symbol on the front is the

eagle and a live branch and arrows they all represents desire for peace and ability to wage war.