

Expansion Resources and Teaching Ideas:

Flying the Flag

Grade 1

VOCABULARY

symbol – something that stands for or represents something else.

emblem – a symbol used to suggest something or stand for an idea.

design – something that serves as a pattern like a drawing.

country – land in which people live under a single government.

county – unit of local government.

city – place where people live close together also local government unit.

rules – a guide for conduct or action.

patriotism – love of one's country.

Bald Eagle Symbol Discussion and Craft

Materials : The book, *The Bald Eagle (America Symbol)* by Norman Pearl, brown construction paper sheets, brown construction paper cut into a large circle and white construction paper cut into a small circle, markers, pencils, glue sticks

Plan: Read the book *The Bald Eagle by Norman Pearl* and discuss with students facts about the bald eagle and why it is an American symbol. Ask students if they can identify other American symbols. List these facts on a piece of large paper or on your board.

Craft: Have students trace their hands in the brown construction paper and then cut along their tracings. Students will then glue their tracings at the palms to either side of the brown construction paper circle. Next, glue the white circle above the brown circle for the bald eagles head. Allow the eagles to dry and then have students draw in feathers, beaks, etc. with markers or colored pencils.

American Acrostic Poetry

An acrostic poem uses the letters in a word to begin each line of the poem. All lines of the poem relate to or describe the main topic word. This is a great way to get students to creatively think about words that describe symbols important to our country.

Materials: Pencils, Paper, other examples of acrostic poetry

Plan: Select a vocab word to be used and have student write on word or a short sentence that starts with each letter of the original word, but still relates to the vocab word.

Example :

The word: FLAG

The acrostic poem:

Freedom

Love

America the

Great

Designing a Community Flag!

Materials: Visual of your county or city flag. Large sheet of paper, markers, small pieces of construction paper, colored pencils.

Plan: Show students an image of your county or city flag. Explain that many flags were designed long ago and it is hard to understand the meaning. For example, Chesterfield County's flag depicts a coal miner, but no one in Chesterfield mines coal any more. Talk to students about the landscape and the things they do in their community or with their family. Ask students for things or places in the community that are important to them. Keep track of these ideas on a piece of paper or on you board.

Using the ideas from class, have students design a new county (or community) flag.

Resources

Books

Adler, David A. *A Picture Book of Abraham Lincoln*, New York: Scholastic, 2012.

Martin, Bill, Jr. and Michael Sampson. *I Pledge Allegiance*, Cambridge: Candlewick Pres, 2009

America the Beautiful, New York: Scholastic, 2008

Websites

- The Smithsonian's Star Spangled Banner site:
<http://amhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/>
- The Discovery Foundation's Symbols of America:
<http://www.discoveryeducation.com/teachers/free-lesson-plans/symbols-of-america.cfm>
- Library of Congress' American Symbols:
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/symbols-us/>



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