



## Virtual Valentine Resources

### History at Home Student Lesson Plans

#### Community Symbols and Seals

Grade K - 1

**Overview:** Learn about how designs, illustrations and symbols can reflect a community's values. Create a community symbol of your own!

**Essential Skills:**

- Compare and contrast
- Define Community

**Virginia Standards of Learning Alignment:**

K1, K2, K.7, K.8, 1.1, 1.10, 1.11, 1.12, 1.13

**Materials:**

- "Community Symbols and Seals with the Valentine Education Team" YouTube video, link: <https://bit.ly/2AtsrT7>
- Community Symbols and Seals Images PDF or PowerPoint
- "Make Your Own Seal Worksheet" PDF
- Markers, colored pencils, crayons



**Vocabulary:**

**City** – Place where people live close together also local government unit

**Symbol** – Something that stands for or represents something else,

**Design** – Something that serves as a pattern like a drawing

**Community** – A community can be made up of a large or small group of people. The land area of a community can also be large or small. The word community can also mean a group of people with common interests that may or may not live together.

**Program Outline:**

1. Watch the Valentine "*Community Symbols and Seals with the Valentine Education Team*" video online\_\_\_\_\_
2. Have a conversation
3. Look at images of local flags and seals with the "Community Symbols and Seals Images" PDF or PowerPoint
4. Create your own flag or seal using the Community Seal worksheet PDF
5. Recap and discover further

**1.** Watch the "*Community Symbols and Seals with the Valentine Education Team*" video online

Find a 2 minute video exploring the Richmond Seal on our Youtube page: <https://bit.ly/2AtsrT7>

**2. Have a conversation about symbols and seals in your community!**

*There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. These are ideas to help children start thinking about this topic. The responses are suggestions for further thought.*

Ask your student:

- **What is a community?**

Community can be made up of a large or small group of people. It can be people who live close to you, or who share common interests.

- **What are some examples of a community that you can think of?**

Some examples: state, the city, the county or neighborhood you live in. Your sports team, your school or your church can be your community. There are lots of communities that a person can be a part of!

- **What are some symbols we find in our community?**

Some examples could be: sports team mascots, like Nutsy, the Flying Squirrels baseball mascot, or the University of Richmond spider's mascot. Other symbols could be flags, or the colors associated with your school.

### **3. Look at flags and community symbols**

Take a look at the "Community Symbols and Seals Images" PDF or PowerPoint with your student and discuss the notes below.

- **Slide 1** – These are all visual illustrations that represent the Virginia community or the Richmond community.

***Can you think of any other symbols that you see in your community?***

- **Slide 2** – Often communities create seals (which can be logos, illustrations, or designs) that represent the things they believe in or like. This is the Henrico County public seal.

***Who do you think that is on the seal?***

Pocahontas is represented on the seal, along with corn and tobacco plants. The words say "City 1611, Shire 1634, Manager 1943, County of Henrico, VA. " Pocahontas is featured on the seal because some people believe she helped create peace between the English settlers and the Powhatan people. Tobacco represents a Virginia cash crop and the corn represents the gift of corn that the Powhatan Indian tribes gave to the early settlers from England.

***Do you think this should still be Henrico County's seal? If not, how should it be revised?***

- **Slide 3** – Take a look at Chesterfield County's Seal. ***What do you see?***

This seal is described as a coal miner standing under a pine tree with a river at his feet.

***Did you know coal was mined in Chesterfield?***

The river represents the James River and/or the Appomattox River, both which flow through Richmond. The pine tree, represents the Piedmont region, an area of rolling hills between the mountains and the costal plane. Chesterfield is located partially in the piedmont region and partially in the costal plane.

- **Slide 4**– Take a look at this image of the Richmond City Seal and the Richmond Flag.

While the county seals of both Chesterfield and Henrico are also flown on the flag, Richmond has a separate flag design.

***What do you notice about each of them?***

The flag of Richmond, VA displays an image of a person working on a bateau boat on the James River. These boats were used on the canals to help people move goods over the rocky parts of the River. It is based off a sculpture called *The Headman*, which is located on Browns Island and celebrates African American contributions to Richmond's waterways.

***Have you ever seen it?***

The nine stars represent the nine states that used to be a part of Virginia's territory. Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana.

The Seal of Richmond shows a woman holding a sword on one hand and scales in the other. What do you think she represents? The words in Latin say "Thus always to the stars." This is Richmond's slogan.

**4. Download the Community Seal Worksheet and talk to your student about the community where you live.**

Ask your student:

- ***Is your community your family? Your neighborhood? Your school?***
- ***What are some beliefs, ideas or rules that your community thinks are important?***
- ***Are there any figures that represent your community's beliefs?***

Next, design a seal to represent your community and come up with a community slogan. Discuss some of the ideas represented on the seals from the Richmond Region you reviewed.

- ***What should your seal and slogan emphasize?***

## **5. Recap and Discover further**

Take a photo of your symbol and if you wish, upload it to twitter, Instagram or Facebook and tag @theValentineRVA.

Take a walk around your neighborhood or your house and try to see how many symbols you can find. Where will you find them? Look on buildings, park signs, tee shirts, bags, and hats!