

## Social Studies Theme: Citizenship

**Lesson:** *Values and Symbols*

**Grade Level:** 1-4

**Overview:** The U.S. Flag and the Statue of Liberty are meaningful symbols of our country and stand for our collective values as Americans.

**Approximate Duration:** one class period

**National Social Studies Standards:** [NSS-C.K-4.2](http://www.educationworld.com/standards/national/soc_sci/civics/k_4.shtml) Values and Principles of Democracy.  
[http://www.educationworld.com/standards/national/soc\\_sci/civics/k\\_4.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/standards/national/soc_sci/civics/k_4.shtml)

**Objective:** Students will be able to identify what a symbol is by studying two vital symbols of the United States. They will understand the purpose, importance and significance of each to their country and its citizens.

### Procedure:

- Discuss with students what a symbol is, clarifying that a symbol is a picture or object that stands for an idea, feeling, or belief. Display different symbols, such as the non-smoking sign, the peace symbol, a dove, and the skull and cross bones. Talk about what each symbol stands for. Then ask students to brainstorm any symbols they can think of that stand for our country and have them tell what they think they symbolize
- After students fully understand the idea of a symbol, display an American flag and ask students to talk about what they think the flag stands for or symbolizes. Talk about the 50 stars that stand for the fifty states, and then ask them what they think the stripes might represent. Ask students to tell when they might use a flag and tell why they think a flag is important to the people in our country.
- Show a picture of the Statue of Liberty and tell students where it stands. Read aloud quotes that people have said or written about the Statue of Liberty. Then have students discuss what the statue means to them.

### Assessment:

- Have students finish this sentence:  
**The Statue of Liberty stands for \_\_\_\_\_.**
- Ask them to illustrate their sentences.
- Ask students to draw a symbol of the United States.
- **Technology integration:** Have students illustrate their symbols of the U.S. on iPads.

## VALUES & SYMBOLS

### I. Symbols Show Pride

- A. The Liberty Bell is a symbol of liberty, or freedom.
- B. Some cities have monuments that honor people or an event.
- C. We try to protect and preserve the bald eagle, a national symbol of strength, freedom, and vision.

### II. Old Glory



- A. The flag is the best-known symbol of the United States.
- B. The flag has symbolized our history, and has changed from 1775 to now.
- C. Our flag stands for a single nation made of many states whose people believe in "liberty and justice for all."

## The Statue of Liberty

*"The Statue of Liberty was a gift of friendship from the people of France to the people of the United States and is a universal symbol of freedom and democracy"*

-National Park Service

*"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."*

-[Emma Lazarus](#), *The New Colossus* (1883), on a bronze plaque mounted inside the [Statue of Liberty](#).

*"America was established not to create wealth but to realize a vision, to realize an ideal - to discover and maintain liberty among men."*

-Woodrow Wilson

*"If a monument should rise in the United States, as a memorial to their independence, I should think it only natural if it were built by united effort."*

-Frenchman [Édouard René de Laboulaye](#), 1865

