One Country, Many Neighbors

How symbols and holidays connect people

3.SS.4.8 "Explain that people in the United States share a national identity through patriotic symbols and holidays."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail that shows how a patriotic symbol connects people. Circle one detail that shows how a holiday connects people.

What Maya's Neighbors Share

1. At the town library, Maya sees a United States flag by the door. Its stars stand for the 50 states. Its stripes stand for the first 13 colonies. Maya and her neighbor came from different states, but they both call the United States home. When they look at the same flag, they see a symbol of a country they share.

2. On Independence Day, Maya's street gathers for a picnic. The holiday is on July 4. It marks the day in 1776 when leaders of the 13 colonies approved the Declaration of Independence. Families wave small flags and sing the national anthem, a song about the country. They may have different family customs, but they celebrate this day as Americans.

3. Maya also learns about Memorial Day. This holiday honors people who died while serving in the United States military. Some neighbors place flowers near a memorial, while others pause in silence. Not everyone marks the day in the same way. Still, these acts help neighbors remember people who served their shared country. Patriotic symbols and holidays can help people feel that they belong to the same country.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the flag help Maya and her neighbor see what they share?

2. How does singing the national anthem on Independence Day show what the families share?

3. Neighbors mark Memorial Day in different ways. How do their actions still show a shared connection?

4. Independence Day and Memorial Day mark different events. How can both holidays help neighbors feel connected?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Plan a neighborhood gathering for Independence Day. In three sentences, name a patriotic symbol you would display, describe an activity not named in the passage that neighbors could do together, and explain how the symbol and holiday can help people with different family customs feel part of one country.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · 3.SS.4.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail that shows how a patriotic symbol connects people. Circle one detail that shows how a holiday connects people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the flag help Maya and her neighbor see what they share?	**The flag stands for the United States, which both Maya and her neighbor call home.**
2	How does singing the national anthem on Independence Day show what the families share?	**They sing a song about their country while celebrating the same national holiday, even though their family customs differ.**
3	Neighbors mark Memorial Day in different ways. How do their actions still show a shared connection?	**They all honor people who died while serving their shared country.**
4	Independence Day and Memorial Day mark different events. How can both holidays help neighbors feel connected?	**Independence Day brings neighbors together to celebrate their country. Memorial Day brings them together to honor people who died serving it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would display a United States flag at our Independence Day gathering. Neighbors could each write a hope for our country on a paper star and hang the stars together. The flag and the holiday remind us that even with different family customs, we share one country.

For the marking job, accept a detail showing that people share the flag as a symbol of their country and a detail showing that neighbors celebrate or remember together. For Your Turn, accept any accurate patriotic symbol and new shared activity if the explanation connects both the symbol and holiday to belonging to the United States.