Symbols Tell Stories

Read how two Tribal nations use symbols to show who they represent.

3.C.1.3.B "Explain how Tribal people and their governments are represented by flags and seals, reflecting the unique culture, history, and traditional symbols of each Tribe."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one design detail on each nation's flag or seal. Circle the words that explain what each detail means to that nation's people.

A Flag, a Seal, a Story

1. At a Tribal government office, a flag may fly outside while a seal appears on official papers. Both can tell a story about the people the government serves. Tribal nations choose their own symbols. These designs are not the same for every Tribe. A mountain, star, or other shape may carry a special meaning tied to a Tribe's land, history, or ways of life.

2. The Navajo Nation flag shows four mountains. For Diné people, another name for Navajo people, these mountains mark the edges of their traditional homeland. A rainbow curves over the land on the flag. The flag helps the Navajo Nation government show which people and place it represents. The mountains are not just pretty shapes. They connect the flag to a place important in Diné life.

3. The Cherokee Nation seal has a star with seven points. Each point stands for one of the seven Cherokee clans, groups of families with shared ties. A seal can be printed on papers from the Cherokee Nation government. The star tells a story about Cherokee people, not about the Navajo Nation. When you study a flag or seal, ask whose symbol it is and what it means to them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What do the four mountains on the Navajo Nation flag show about Diné people and their land?

2. Why does the star on the Cherokee Nation seal have seven points?

3. How do the mountains on the flag and the star on the seal tell different stories?

4. A visitor sees the Cherokee Nation seal on a government paper. What does the star tell the visitor about the people that government represents?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Design a flag for an imaginary class council with one symbol for a class tradition. Draw the symbol, then write two sentences explaining the tradition and how the flag shows whom the council represents.

ANSWER KEY

Symbols Tell Stories

GRADE 3 · 3.C.1.3.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one design detail on each nation's flag or seal. Circle the words that explain what each detail means to that nation's people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What do the four mountains on the Navajo Nation flag show about Diné people and their land?	**They mark the edges of the Diné people's traditional homeland.**
2	Why does the star on the Cherokee Nation seal have seven points?	**Each point stands for one of the seven Cherokee clans.**
3	How do the mountains on the flag and the star on the seal tell different stories?	**The mountains show the Diné people's traditional homeland. The star shows the seven Cherokee clans.**
4	A visitor sees the Cherokee Nation seal on a government paper. What does the star tell the visitor about the people that government represents?	**It shows that the government represents Cherokee people, whose seven clans are shown by the star's points.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Drawing: a book with a star on its cover. Our class shares a new story every Friday. The book shows that our class council represents the students who share stories together.

Accept answers that connect each symbol to the correct nation's people or homeland. For Part 3, look for a made-up class tradition and a clear link between the flag's symbol and the group the council represents.