Symbols and Neighbors

How Oklahomans share stories and ideals

3.C.1.3 "Explain how Oklahomans are united through our heritage, state symbols, and special commemorations that reflect common ideals. Describe the significance of symbols represented on the State Seal and Oklahoma Flag..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how symbols tell stories about heritage, and circle one detail that shows how Oklahomans helped one another during a hard time.

What Brings Oklahomans Together?

1. Oklahoma's name comes from two Choctaw words: *okla*, meaning "people," and *humma*, meaning "red." This name points to the state's American Indian heritage. Oklahoma is home to many Tribal Nations, each with its own government. Tribal flags and seals can show symbols chosen by that Nation to tell its own story. A Tribal flag does not stand for every Tribe, just as one family's story cannot tell every family's story.

2. On Oklahoma's state flag, an Osage shield holds a peace pipe and an olive branch. Together, they stand for peace. The State Seal has a star with five points. Each point holds the seal of one of five Tribal Nations. The seal also carries the motto *Labor omnia vincit*, which means "Work conquers all." It reminds people that hard work can help them face challenges.

3. Symbols are not the only way people share ideals. On Memorial Day, people honor those who died while serving in the U.S. military. After the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, neighbors helped with rescue and recovery. Many Oklahomans call this caring action the "Oklahoma Standard." Their work showed how people can unite during a hard time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Oklahoma's name point to the state's American Indian heritage?

2. How can Oklahoma's flag and a Tribal flag tell different stories?

3. What do the State Seal's five points and motto each tell us?

4. How did neighbors show the Oklahoma Standard after the bombing? How is that different from what people do on Memorial Day?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a community day that brings neighbors together. In three sentences, name the day, describe a symbol for it and what it means, and explain one action neighbors would take on that day.

ANSWER KEY

Symbols and Neighbors

GRADE 3 · 3.C.1.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how symbols tell stories about heritage, and circle one detail that shows how Oklahomans helped one another during a hard time. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Oklahoma's name point to the state's American Indian heritage?	**It comes from the Choctaw words *okla*, meaning "people," and *humma*, meaning "red."**
2	How can Oklahoma's flag and a Tribal flag tell different stories?	**Oklahoma's flag uses a peace pipe and olive branch to stand for peace. A Tribal flag uses symbols chosen by that Nation to tell its own story.**
3	What do the State Seal's five points and motto each tell us?	**The points each hold the seal of one of five Tribal Nations. The motto means "Work conquers all" and shows the value of hard work.**
4	How did neighbors show the Oklahoma Standard after the bombing? How is that different from what people do on Memorial Day?	**Neighbors helped with rescue and recovery after the bombing. On Memorial Day, people honor those who died while serving in the U.S. military.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our neighborhood could celebrate Book Bridge Day each spring. A picture of two hands holding one book would stand for sharing stories. Neighbors could give books to children who need them.

Accept any three-sentence response that names a community day, gives a symbol a clear meaning, and describes a fitting neighborly action. For question 3, the five seals on the State Seal do not mean Oklahoma has only five Tribal Nations.