

Signs of Citizenship

Read how images and holidays carry civic meaning.

5.16.A “explain various patriotic symbols, including Uncle Sam; national celebrations such as Labor Day; and political symbols such as the donkey and elephant;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, write 1 beside the sentence that explains what Uncle Sam represents, 2 beside the sentence that explains what Labor Day honors, and 3 beside the sentence that identifies the parties linked to the donkey and elephant. These details show how symbols and celebrations communicate important ideas.

Messages in Symbols and Holidays

- ① Symbols can communicate ideas about the United States without using many words. Uncle Sam is a tall, bearded character often shown in a top hat decorated with stars and stripes. He represents the U.S. government in posters and cartoons. For example, a World War I recruiting poster used Uncle Sam to ask people to join the Army. He is not a real government official.
- ② National celebrations can honor people or events important to the country. Labor Day is observed on the first Monday in September. It honors the contributions of American workers, including people whose jobs build, grow, make, teach, and provide services. Many people have a day away from work or school, but the holiday's main meaning is recognizing workers and their achievements.
- ③ Political symbols can identify groups in elections and news stories. The donkey is commonly used for the Democratic Party, and the elephant is commonly used for the Republican Party. Cartoonist Thomas Nast helped make both animal symbols popular during the 1800s. The animals do not represent the U.S. government or all citizens. They help readers quickly identify the political party being discussed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What does Uncle Sam represent, and where might you see him?

2 What does Labor Day honor?

3 Which political party is linked to the donkey, and which party is linked to the elephant?

4 How do the donkey and elephant help readers of election news stories?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine a new national celebration that honors a group that helps the country. In the box, draw a symbol for the celebration and write exactly two sentences that name the celebration, tell whom it honors, and explain what the symbol represents.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

As you read, write 1 beside the sentence that explains what Uncle Sam represents, 2 beside the sentence that explains what Labor Day honors, and 3 beside the sentence that identifies the parties linked to the donkey and elephant. These details show how symbols and celebrations communicate important ideas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does Uncle Sam represent, and where might you see him?	He represents the U.S. government. He may appear in posters and cartoons.
2	What does Labor Day honor?	It honors the contributions and achievements of American workers.
3	Which political party is linked to the donkey, and which party is linked to the elephant?	The donkey is linked to the Democratic Party, and the elephant is linked to the Republican Party.
4	How do the donkey and elephant help readers of election news stories?	They help readers quickly identify the political party being discussed.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Drawing: an open book beside an apple Library Appreciation Day honors librarians, who help people find information and stories. The book and apple represent learning and helpful service.

Accept any accurate explanation of the passage's symbols and Labor Day. For the open task, accept a clear original celebration, an appropriate symbol, and exactly two sentences that include all requested parts.