

Signs of America

Read closely to connect national symbols and places with their meanings.

5.16 "Citizenship. The student understands important symbols, customs, celebrations, and landmarks that represent American beliefs and principles that contribute to our national identity..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every named symbol, celebration, song, pledge, or landmark, then circle the words that tell what it represents, honors, promises, or remembers.

Symbols, Songs, and Places

- ① Americans use symbols and celebrations to share ideas about the nation. Uncle Sam, often shown in a tall hat and striped clothes, is a person-like symbol for the United States government. The donkey is commonly linked with the Democratic Party, and the elephant is commonly linked with the Republican Party. Labor Day honors the contributions of workers and is observed on the first Monday in September.
- ② During the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key saw the U.S. flag still flying over Fort McHenry after a British attack. In 1814, he wrote a poem that became the words of "The Star-Spangled Banner." The song later became the national anthem. When students sing or recite it, they remember that the flag showed the fort had not surrendered and can discuss the nation's perseverance.
- ③ The Pledge says, "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." It promises loyalty to the country and its ideals. The White House is the president's home and workplace. The Statue of Liberty represents freedom. Mount Rushmore honors four presidents.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does Uncle Sam represent? Which political party is linked with the donkey, and which party is linked with the elephant?

2 What does Labor Day honor, and when is it observed?

3 How did "The Star-Spangled Banner" begin, and what did the flag over Fort McHenry show?

4 What promise does the Pledge make? Then explain the significance of the White House, the Statue of Liberty, and Mount Rushmore.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence guide card for a visitor. Choose one symbol, celebration, song, pledge, or landmark from the passage, explain what it means, and tell why learning about it can help a visitor understand the United States.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every named symbol, celebration, song, pledge, or landmark, then circle the words that tell what it represents, honors, promises, or remembers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does Uncle Sam represent? Which political party is linked with the donkey, and which party is linked with the elephant?	Uncle Sam represents the U.S. government. The donkey is linked with the Democratic Party, and the elephant is linked with the Republican Party.
2	What does Labor Day honor, and when is it observed?	Labor Day honors the contributions of workers. It is observed on the first Monday in September.
3	How did "The Star-Spangled Banner" begin, and what did the flag over Fort McHenry show?	Francis Scott Key wrote a poem in 1814 after seeing the U.S. flag over Fort McHenry. The flag showed that the fort had not surrendered.
4	What promise does the Pledge make? Then explain the significance of the White House, the Statue of Liberty, and Mount Rushmore.	The Pledge promises loyalty to the country and its ideals. The White House is the president's home and workplace, the Statue of Liberty represents freedom, and Mount Rushmore honors four presidents.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The White House is the president's home and workplace. It represents the role of the president in leading the executive branch of the government. Learning about it helps visitors understand where one part of the national government works.

Accept accurate paraphrases of the passage's explanations. For the guide card, accept any passage item if the student explains its meaning accurately and gives a reasonable connection to understanding the United States.