

Special Ed

US SYMBOLS



ALSO INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES

Special Needs for Special Kids



This unit was created with this guy in mind. He has autism and an intellectual disability. He is a non-reader, has a very short attention span, and struggles to sit still. With some support he is able to do this unit, and enjoys the challenge. He is my tester!!



There are a lot of US symbols. I have chosen 6 of the most popular.

- **The American flag**
- **The Statue of Liberty**
- **The Liberty Bell**
- **The Bald Eagle**
- **The Great Seal**
- **Uncle Sam**

US Symbols for Special Education

By
Christa Joy
Special Needs for Special Kids



Table of Contents

| Worksheet pages | Title |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 4-5 | Vocabulary board |
| 6-8 | Who am I cards |
| 9-23 | Bingo cards |
| 24-25 | Scavenger Hunt |
| 26-44 | Circle maps |
| 45-49 | Word maps |
| 50-52 | Writing prompt |
| 53-56 | How to fold a flag |
| 57-66 | Close worksheets |
| 67-77 | Assessment |
| 78-79 | Terms of use |

Also included in this resource as separate files:

- Lesson plans
- Links and directions to digital activities
- PowerPoint (**this is the book in the lesson plan**)
- Voice recorded PowerPoint
- Activities in black and white

This unit contains over 200 pages of material plus 36 google slides. I have included a detailed lesson plan to help you make the most of everything in this unit including how to add some group activities.

This unit comes in 2 separate files, one in color and one in black and white.

US Symbols Lesson Plan

Preparation

- Print out a vocabulary board for each student to use throughout unit
 - Laminate or place in page protector
- Book
 - Print out, laminate, and bind
 - Also available as a recorded PowerPoint and video in the directions for digital activities pdf
- Who am I activity cards
 - Print out a set of cards onto cardstock and laminate
 - Make one set for each student and one for the teacher to use
- Bingo cards
 - This unit comes with a set of Bingo cards.
 - They are in color and BW
 - Print on cardstock and laminate.
 - Suggestions for use included in unit.

Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- Use the end of the unit assessment to assess what your students may already know.
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this growth, this preassessment is so important!!

Teaching Tips

1. **Color Coding:** this is a really easy way to do an activity. Outline or color in an empty box next to the corresponding picture symbols the same task.
 - a. For more info, read more here: <https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/03/20/color-coding-differentiation/>
 - b. I also have a blog post on differentiating this activity: <https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/03/20/3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>

Quick Look

| Day | Activity | | |
|-----|--|----|---|
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab board activity • Circle map | 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Who am I activity • Writing prompt |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab board activity • Circle map | 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Folding the flag • Close worksheet |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab board activity • Circle map | 11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Bingo • Close worksheet |
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab board activity • Circle map | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Bingo • Close worksheet |
| 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocab board activity • Circle map | 13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Bingo • Close worksheet |
| | | 14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Bingo • Close worksheet |
| | | 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Scavenger hunt • Close worksheet |
| | | 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment • YouTube video |

Day 6

| Activity | Notes | Materials |
|--|--|---|
| Read or listen to the book: US Symbols (10 minutes) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read through the story, asking lots of questions • Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Vocabulary board |
| Who am I activity (10 minutes) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give each student a set of Who am I cards • Various options/ways to play, but the goal is to have students hold up the card you are talking about. Sometimes there can be more than one correct answer • Things you can do: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Hold up a vocabulary card ◦ Show a page from the book ◦ Point to a symbol on the vocabulary board ◦ Verbally describe something about that card • Tell a story as though you were that symbol. Where are you? What do you look like? What colors are you? What are you holding? What do you stand for? <p>***DIRECTIONS ON HOW TO PLAY***</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who am I cards (2 sets) |
| Circle map review (5 minutes) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the circle map completed yesterday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circle map completed yesterday |
| Circle Map (10 minutes) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the circle map on Uncle Sam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Choose the best version (errorless or not) depending on the learning level of your students ◦ Students cut out symbols and place in circle map. • Make connections to the book as necessary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circle map • Scissors • Glue |
| Sharing (10 minutes) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each student shares their finished activity with the group using the communication method of their choice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed activity • Communication devices |

16 days

The lesson plans contain:

- Overall tips for teaching students with significant needs
- A quick look at what you will do each day
- Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids
 The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981–2018 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved
 Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox

This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!

(There are NO vocabulary cards in this unit.)

The Great Seal



13 olive branches



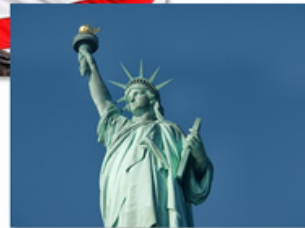
13 arrows

In one of its talons, the bald eagle holds 13 olive branches that symbolize peace. In the other talon, he holds 13 arrows of war symbolizing a willingness to fight for our freedom if needed.

©Christa Joy, SNSK

There is a 52-page book with simple text and engaging photos.

It comes in a pdf version as well as a voice recorded powerpoint (so you don't have to print it out.)









So now you know the meanings behind some of the most common symbols of the United States. Overall, they have a theme of freedom, liberty, strength, and independence.

©Christa Joy, SNSK

errorless

Cut apart pictures and place in circle map showing facts about the Statue of Liberty.



| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|
|  New York |  freedom |  France | 21 years |  sent in pieces |
|  tablet |  torch |  copper sheets |  354 stairs |  all welcome |

Cut apart pictures and place in circle map **ONLY IF** they relate to the Statue of Liberty.

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
|  New York |  man |  New Jersey | 21 years |  sent in pieces |
|  tablet |  torch |  copper sheets |  354 stairs |  Germany |
|  harp |  freedom |  France |  cowboy hat |  all welcome |

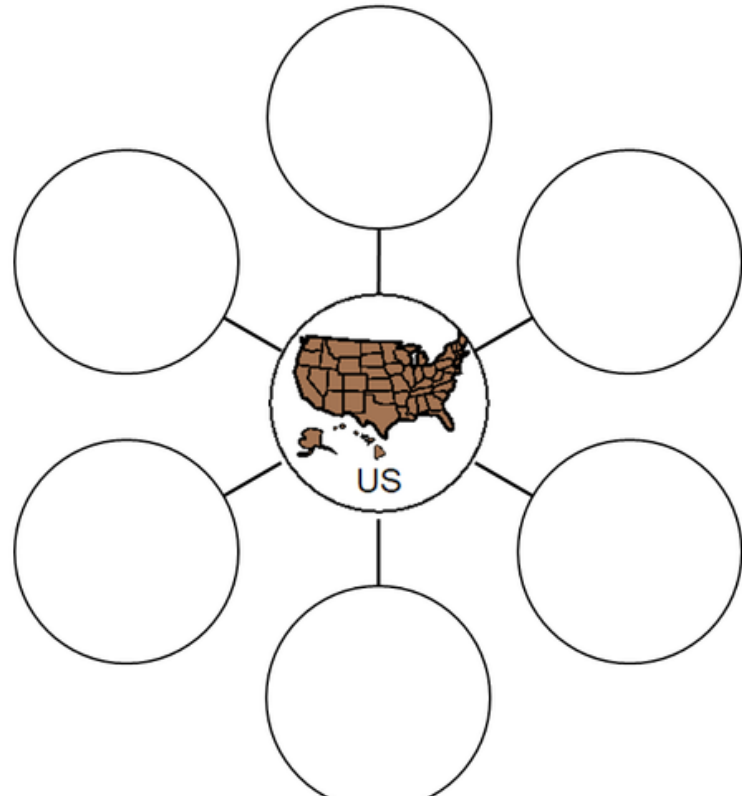
The Picture Comm
Worldwide. Us

There is a circle map for each symbol (6 in all).

Circle maps are a great way for students to see the concept at a glance. There are 2 versions:

- One is errorless
- One has wrong answers mixed in students will have to set aside

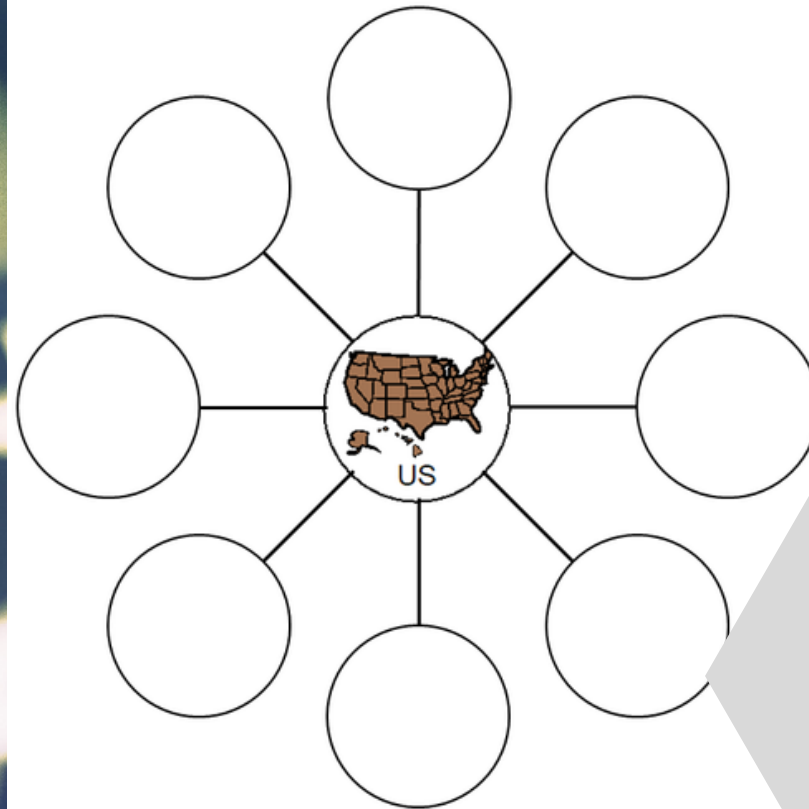
What are some common US Symbols?



Place the images in the empty circles on the previous page.



What do the US symbols stand for?



Place the images in the empty circles on the previous page.



There are 2 word maps for students to show common US symbols and common meanings of US symbols. These are errorless activities.

My Favorite US Symbol



I am to live in the United States.



I live in .



My favorite US symbol is .



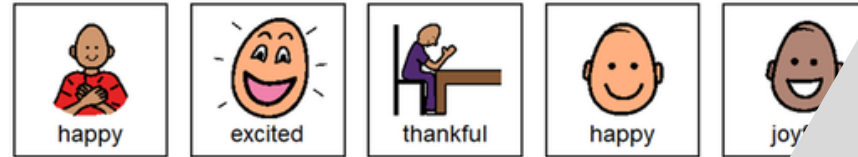
It represents .



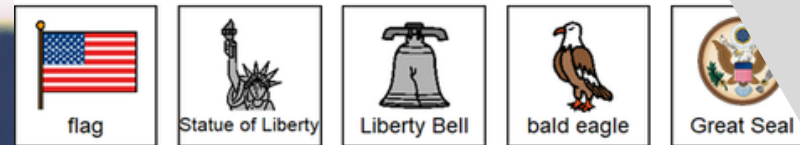
To me it means .



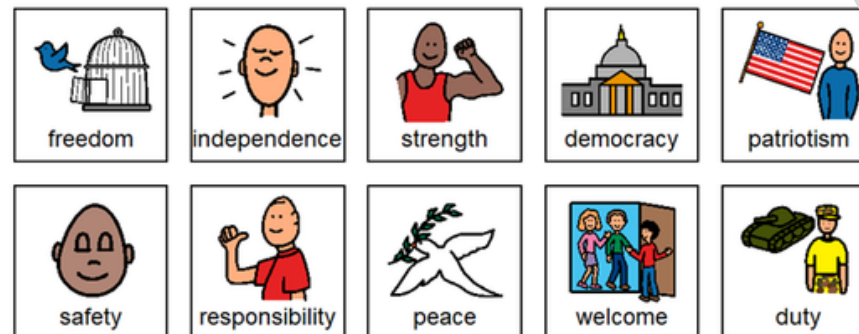
Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981-2019 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox



Help students write in the state you live in.



Use for answer choices for last 2 sentences.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981-2019 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox

There is a writing prompt for students to write about their favorite symbols. This is an errorless activity.

Who am I cards

- Give each student a set of Who am I cards
- Various options/ways to play, but the goal is to have students hold up the card you are talking about. Sometimes there can be more than one correct answer
- Things you can do:
 - Show a page from the book
 - Point to a symbol on the vocabulary board
 - Verbally describe something about one of the US symbols.
- Tell a story as though you were seeing a symbol.
 - What do you see?
 - What does it mean?
 - Where are you standing?
 - What historical figure are you?
 - What time period are you from?

The Pi
W:



flag



Statue of Liberty



Liberty Bell



bald eagle

Group activity

There are large cards and directions for playing a "Who am I?" group activity.

Bingo cards



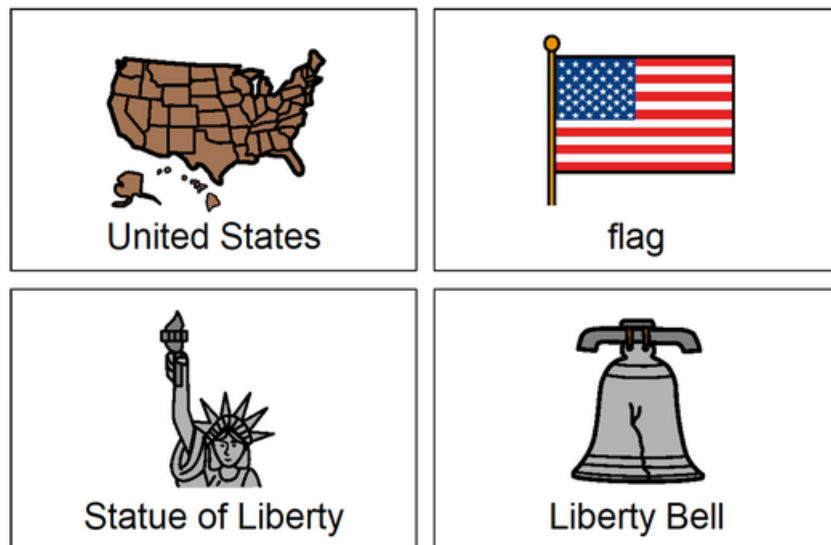
- Included are 10 Bingo cards in color and 10 Bingo cards in BW.
- Place the cards in page protectors or laminate for long term use.
- **Cut one board apart to use as calling cards.**
- This is a great way to practice the new vocabulary included in this unit.
- Cut apart a set of the vocabulary cards to use as the calling cards.
- Options:
 - Show students the picture for them to match
 - Read the definition and see if students can find the matching picture
 - Work as teams
 - Vary the "winning" patterns.
 - Cover all
 - Cover corners
 - Row across or down
 - Cover the edges
 - Vary the ways to mark the card
 - Place in page protector or laminate and use dry erase markers
 - Stickers
 - Post-it notes

US Symbols

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
|  United States |  flag |  Statue of Liberty |  Liberty Bell |
|  bald eagle |  Great Seal |  Uncle Sam |  freedom |
|  strength |  patriotism |  united | 13 |
|  democracy |  independence |  important | 1776 |

Group activity

There are 10 color and 10 black and white Bingo cards included plus 10 different ways to use them and play Bingo. There are calling cards included. This is a great way to review vocabulary.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids
The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981-2021 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved
Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox

Calling cards included

Group activity

US Symbols Scavenger Hunt

| | |
|---|--|
| Flag  | |
| Statue of Liberty  | |
| Liberty Bell  | |
| Bald Eagle  | |
| Great Seal  | |
| Uncle Sam  | |
| | |
| | |

Students will go on a scavenger hunt around school looking for and counting US symbols.

Hands on activity

How to fold the flag (see pictures on next page for more guidance)

1. Fold the flag in half lengthwise with the printed part on the outside.
2. Fold the flag in half again lengthwise keeping the blue stars on top.
3. Starting at the end with the stripes, make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open (top) edge of the flag.
4. Turn the outer (end) point inward, parallel to the open edge, to form a second triangle.
5. The triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.
6. At the end, fold the end to form a triangle on the opposite end you have been folding.
7. Tuck the end (now in a triangle) into the folded end.
8. Work with edges until there is no red showing.



Students can practice folding a flag using a paper model.

It is not as easy as it looks!!

How to fold the flag



Step 1-2



Step 3



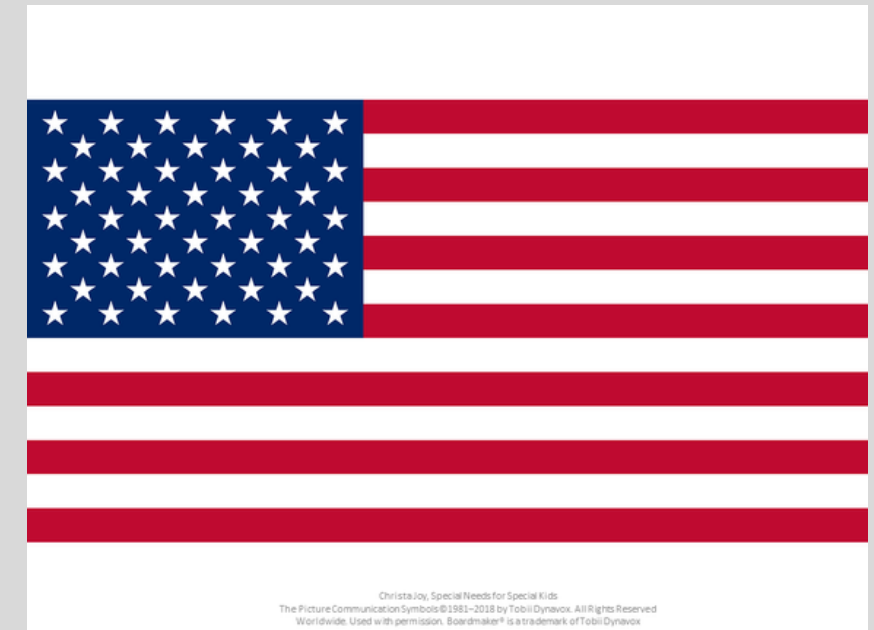
Step 4-5



Step 6



Step 7



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids
The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981-2018 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved
Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox

US Flag



1. The US flag has stripes.

2. The US flag 50 stars, one for each .

3. The US flag stands for and .

4. The US flag should never touch the .

5. The US flag can be flown at half-past when someone .



state



ground



dies



freedom

13

thirteen



independence

The Great Seal



1. The Great Seal represents .

2. The Great Seal was designed after the war.

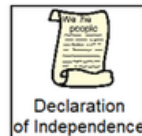
3. The number shows up in a lot of ways on the seal.

4. The bald eagle holds and in its talons.

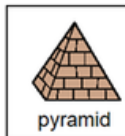
5. On the back of the seal is a with 13 layers and an eye on top.

13

thirteen



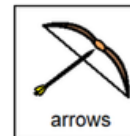
Declaration of Independence



pyramid



olive branches



arrows



self-government

Close worksheets are a great informal assessment. This unit has one for each of the 6 symbols. Suggestions for differentiation are included.

Answer key included.

Version 1

1. What makes something a symbol?



2. Circle some of the common things US symbols represent:



3. Which symbol has 13 stripes and 50 stars?



4. Where can you find the Statue of Liberty?



5. What happened the



1. What makes something a symbol?

- A. Is important
- B. Colorful
- C. Famous

2. Circle some of the common things US symbols represent:

- A. Freedom
- B. Strength
- C. Greed
- D. independence
- E. duty
- F. anger

3. Which symbol has 13 stripes and 50 stars?

- A. Statue of Liberty
- B. Liberty Bell
- C. Flag

4. Where can you find the Statue of Liberty?

- A. Philadelphia
- B. New York Harbor
- C. Washington, D.C.

5. What happened the first time the Liberty Bell was rung?

- A. People cheered
- B. Cracked
- C. Exploded

6. Which bird is our national bird?

- A. Bald eagle
- B. Turkey
- C. Flamingo

The Picture Commu
Worldwide. Use

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids
The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981-2019 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved
Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox

Version 2

Print onto cardstock or mount on index cards. Cut pictures apart and show student answer choices for each question.

Q 3



Statue of Liberty



Liberty Bell



flag

Q 4

Version 3



Philadelphia



New York Harbor



Washington, D.C.

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids
The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981-2019 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved
Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox

FINALLY the assessment!! There are 3 versions.

- 10 questions with 3 picture choices for each question
- cut out the answer choices and glue them on index cards
- traditional multiple choice

Answer key included.



United States Symbols

By Christa Joy



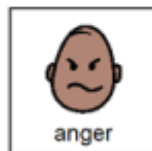
This unit also includes digital versions of the activities.

Students can watch a movie book version of the book rather than printing it out.

1. What makes something a symbol?



2. Circle some of the common things US symbols represent:



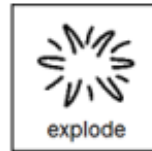
3. Which symbol has 13 stripes and 50 stars?



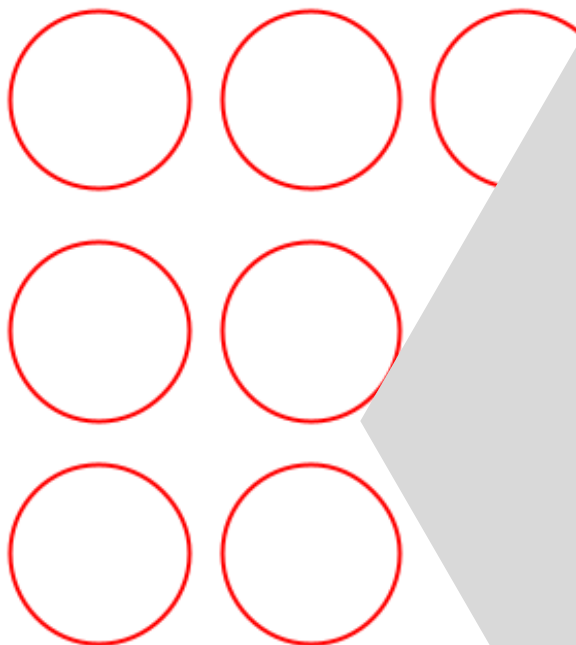
4. Where can you find the Statue of Liberty?



5. What happened the first time the Liberty Bell was rung?



Circle the correct answer.



Each activity is set up so students can click and drag answers. No typing is required.

Bald Eagle



1. The is the national bird of the US.

2. Benjamin Franklin wanted the to be the national bird.

3. The bald eagle stands for and .

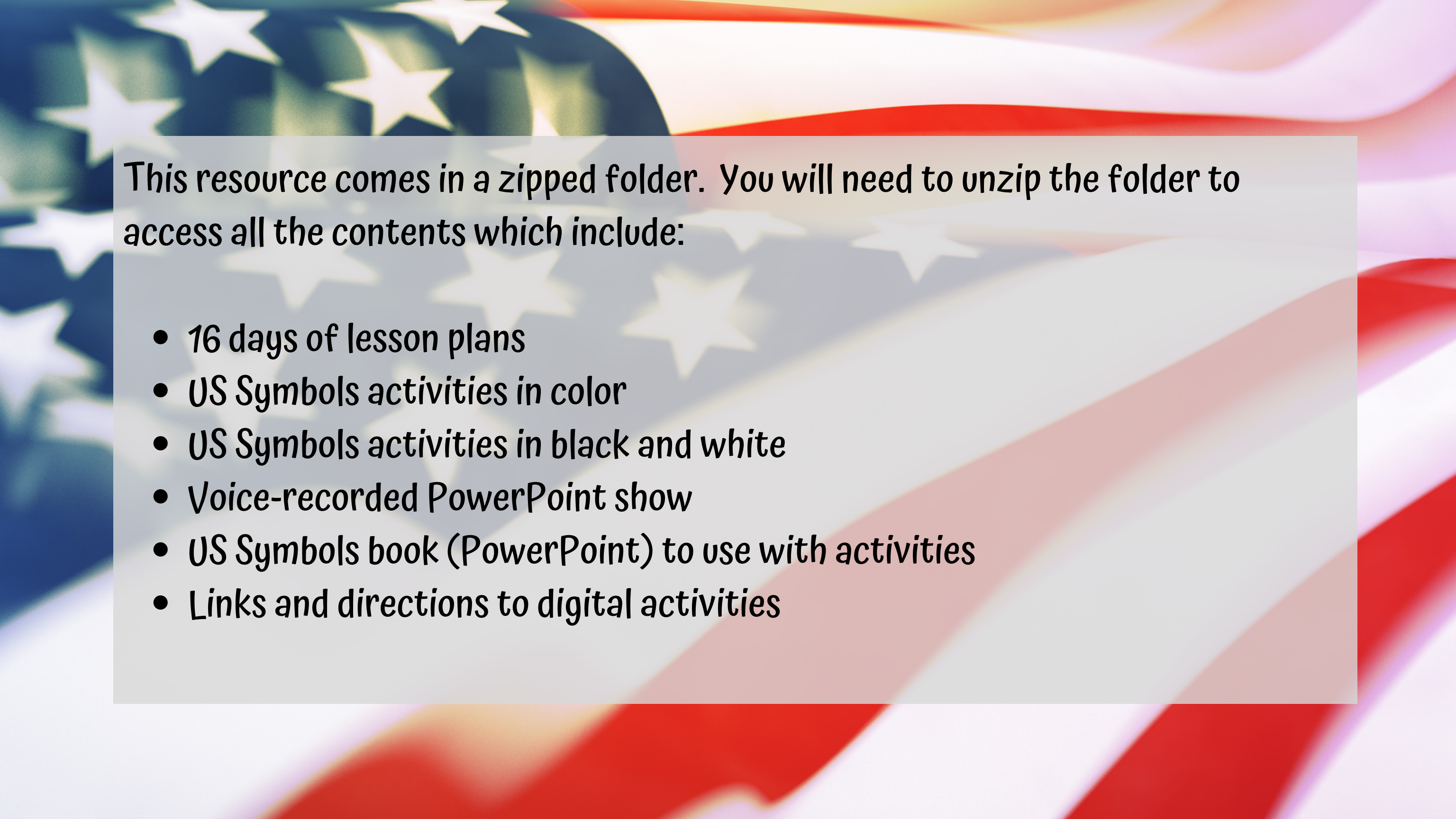
4. The bald eagle only lives in .

5. Congress passed the to protect the bald eagle.

Use the pictures in the empty boxes to finish the sentences.



The second set of slides uses color for differentiation and extra support for students who may need it. Mix and match slides from both sets to make the perfect set for each student.

The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with a blue field of white stars on the left and red and white stripes on the right. The flag is slightly blurred and has a soft, glowing effect.

This resource comes in a zipped folder. You will need to unzip the folder to access all the contents which include:

- ***16 days of lesson plans***
- ***US Symbols activities in color***
- ***US Symbols activities in black and white***
- ***Voice-recorded PowerPoint show***
- ***US Symbols book (PowerPoint) to use with activities***
- ***Links and directions to digital activities***