

EXPLORING PATRIOTIC SYMBOLS OF AMERICA!

A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR PARENTS

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ABOUT THIS BOOK

Explore Patriotic Symbols of America is a resource guide for parents of preschool and early elementary students who are looking to explain and describe some of the more common symbols that represent the United States of America.

As I searched for details and information to share with my four and two year old boys about these important symbols of America's freedom, I found I had to look in multiple places to gather a few trivia about each symbol. So I created this ebook to be a resource to collect all the information in one spot.

I selected the five symbols in this book (Lady Liberty, Liberty Bell, Bald Eagle, American Flag, Mount Rushmore), because I think they are the most frequent a young child might encounter, and because they all lend themselves towards visual and hands on projects and learning activities. While there are certainly many more details about each symbol, I only included those that would be relevant and understandable to a young child.

This book is intended to be used by the parent or educator to provide basic facts and information at the preschool / early elementary level. Feel free to read it aloud to your child, or just share the tidbits of information as you discuss the various symbols.

This book was written in conjunction with my guest post on the Melissa & Doug Blog detailed five crafts that go along with these symbols. Future editions of this book will include a copy of the guest post along with materials, instructions, and photos of the craft ideas.

I hope you enjoy reading and using this book with your children.

Sincerely,

Julie Kieras

Writer :: Blogger at HappyStrongHome.com

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THE STATUE OF LIBERTY (LADY LIBERTY)



- ★ The Statue of Liberty represents liberty (freedom).
- ★ A Frenchman (Fredereic-Auguste Bartholdi) designed the statue. He gave it as a gift from the country of France to the United States in 1884 (dedicated in 1886).
- ★ She stands in New York Harbor on Ellis Island.
- ★ She holds a tablet in one hand, and a torch in the other.

★ Her full name is “Liberty Enlightening the World.”

★ Her crown has 7 spikes representing the 7 continents and 7 seas.

★ **Why is she green?** Lady Liberty is made of copper metal, which turns green because it’s exposed to the air (oxidation). The green color is a sign of “damage” but the green patina (coating) also protects the statue from other damage.

INSCRIPTION ON THE STATUE

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.

THE BALD EAGLE



of North America.

- ★ Look for the bald eagle symbol on many United States coins and on the Great Seal of America.
- ★ **More Cool Facts:** Bald eagle nests (called eyries) can weigh up to almost a ton!

THE LIBERTY BELL



★ The Liberty Bell stands for freedom.

★ This bell was first rung to announce the independence of the United States of America from England in 1776.

★ The Liberty Bell currently rests in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at Independence Hall (formerly the

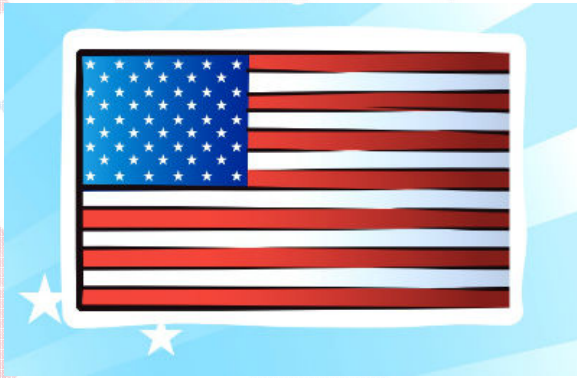
Pennsylvania State House).

★ The Liberty Bell was cast out of bronze (which is mostly copper and tin metals) in 1752 (that's over 260 years ago!).

★ It cracked during its test ring. Then it was melted down and recast, but it cracked again over 80 years later.

★ **More Cool Facts:** The Liberty Bell is 3 feet tall – about the height of an average four-year-old! It is 12 feet wide at the opening (lip), which means you could put FOUR 4-year-olds across the opening!

THE AMERICAN FLAG



★ The design of our flag – stars and stripes – was created in 1777. At first, the flag had 13 stripes and 13 stars. As more states were added to America, more stars were added to the flag.

★ Our current flag has 13 stripes and 50 stars. The stripes represent the 13 original colonies, and the stars represent our 50 states.

★ The colors on the flag have meanings too:

- ◆ **Red:** Valor
- ◆ **White:** Purity
- ◆ **Blue:** Justice

★ We celebrate the flag on June 14th each year, known as Flag Day. There is even an American Flag on the moon!

★ Our national anthem, “The Star Spangled Banner” was written about the flag!

★ **Our flag has several nicknames:**

- ★ Old Glory
- ★ Stars and Stripes
- ★ The Star Spangled Banner

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed by the twilight's last gleaming
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous
fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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.

MOUNT RUSHMORE



Photo source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/iluvcocacola/5803508223/>

the heads of 4 American presidents into the stone.

★ The 4 presidents on Mount Rushmore are:

- ◆ George Washington – our 1st president – the Birth of our Country
- ◆ Thomas Jefferson – the Expansion of our nation
- ◆ Abraham Lincoln – the Preservation of our nation
- ◆ Theodore Roosevelt – the Development of our country

★ **More Cool Facts:** Mount Rushmore is 5,725 feet tall – that's over a mile!

Source: <http://www.nps.gov/moru/forkids/upload/MORU-Student-Guide-2014.pdf>