

AB-PS

Patriotic Symbols & Memorials
Activity Book
for K-5th Grades

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Patriotic Symbols & Memorials Activity Book
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This book is dedicated to my amazing family. Thank you to my wonderful husband, Scott, who ate a lot of leftovers, listened to a lot of whining (from me!), and sent lots of positive energy my way. Thank you to my daughter, Shelby, who truly inspired me through her love for learning. Thank you to my parents, Judy and Billy Trout, who taught me to trust in my abilities and to never give up.

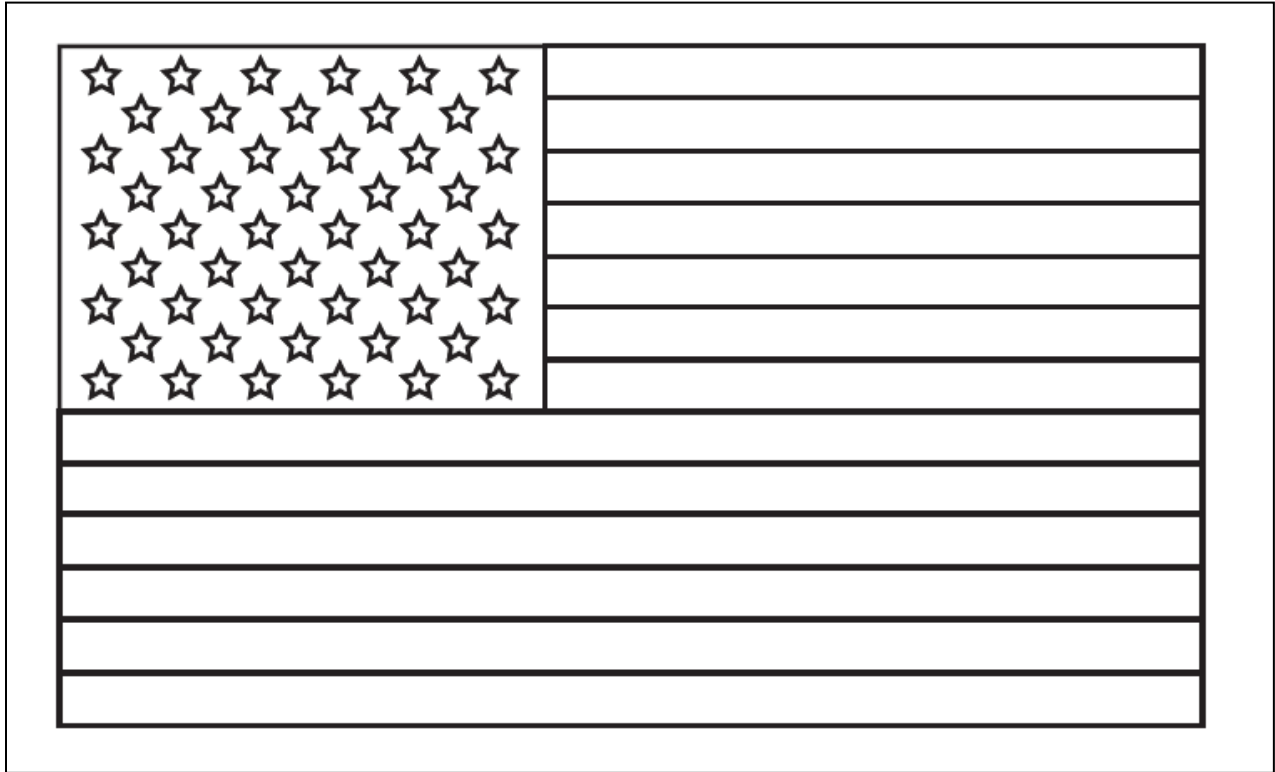
This is an activity book that is designed to provide a brief study of many of the patriotic symbols and memorials of the United States of America.

There are many activities and suggestions for extended study. Most pictures are in black and white, so that your student may color them and create images of their own.

Many websites were used in the research and creation of this activity book. Each was used with permission. These websites include:

**<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/>,
www.whithouse.gov/kids, www.kidsdomain.com,
www.teachnology.com, www.teachervision.com,
<http://www.first-school.ws>, and others.**

The U.S. Flag



With the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the colonists declared their independence from England. The new nation needed a flag. So on June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act. It states that the flag would be made up of thirteen alternating red and white stripes and thirteen white stars on a blue field. The 13 stripes represent the original Thirteen Colonies. As our nation has grown, so has the flag. Stars are added to the flag as new states join the union. Currently, the flag contains 50 stars.

While no one knows the exact origin of the first American flag, some historians believe it was designed by Congressman Francis Hopkinson and sewn by Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross.

On this website, you may view *The Federal Flag Code*, which explains the proper display of and respect of the United States Flag:
<http://www.bcpl.net/~etowner/flagcode.html>

Design Your Own Flag

Ever wonder why the flag is red, white, and blue? While the flag's colors did not have a specific meaning at the time, the colors were significant for the Great Seal of 1782.

Colors were carefully chosen by the Founding Fathers. Red represents bravery, white represents purity, and blue represents justice.

Take a look at the various flags of the world. Use the color key below to determine the characteristics each country is trying to convey with their flag.

Color Key

red = bravery, courage, valor, strength
yellow/gold = honor, loyalty, optimism
blue = peace, justice, sincerity
orange = strength, endurance
black = grief, sorrow

green = hope
purple = royalty, wealth
red/purple = sacrifice
white/silver = faith, purity

Directions: Using the color key and the space provided below, design a flag for your family. Write a short paragraph that explains why you chose the colors you did and what they represent.



The Pledge of Allegiance

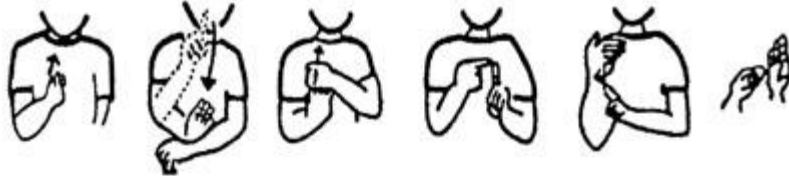
The Pledge of Allegiance is a promise of loyalty to the United States. Here are the words to the Pledge:

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.

Francis Bellamy, the author of these words, was an ordained minister, magazine writer, and Freemason who stated that his aim was to say "what our republic meant and what was the underlying spirit of its life."

Bellamy wrote the Pledge of Allegiance in 1892 as part of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus. It was embraced by the nation and almost immediately became a part of the school-day ritual. Bellamy's original text has been altered twice. In 1923, the words "the flag of the United States of America" were substituted for the words "my flag". Congress officially recognized the Pledge in 1942 and added the words "under God" in 1954.

The Pledge of Allegiance In Sign Language



"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."

Eagle

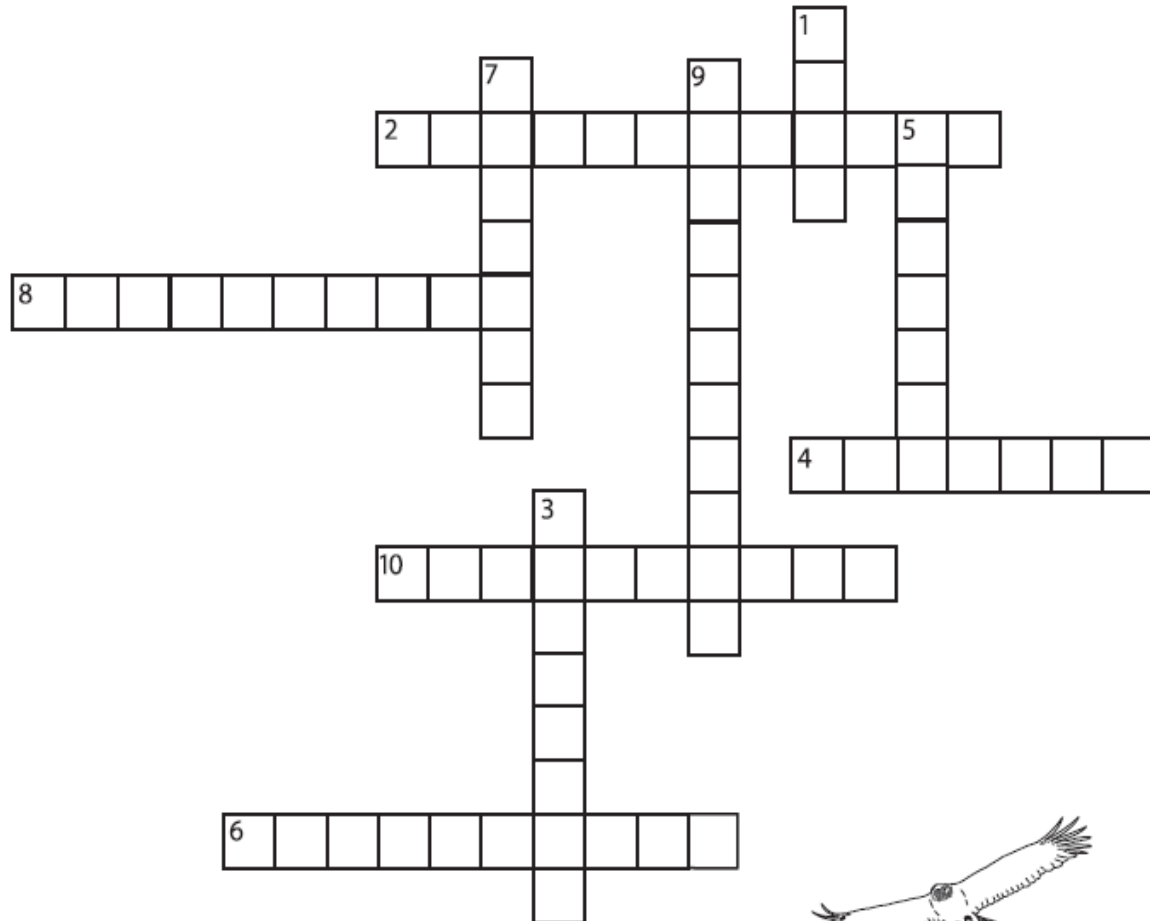


The bald eagle is the national bird of the United States. This majestic bird can only be found soaring in North America. The Founding Fathers chose the bald eagle as the national bird because it symbolizes strength, courage, freedom, and immortality. The term "bald" does not mean that this bird lacks feathers. Instead, it comes from the word piebald, an old word, meaning "marked with white."

Unfortunately, this magnificent bird faced near extinction. When Europeans first arrived on the North American continent in the 1600's, there were an estimated 25,000 to 50,000 bald eagles, but populations dropped for many reasons. Many eagles were captured for getting too close to poultry or fishing nets; some were captured for falconry; and many eagles were poisoned by pesticides. In 1967, the bald eagle was included on the Threatened and Endangered Species List. Federal laws, such as the Bald Eagle Protection Act, protect the bald eagle and have led to the recovery of bald eagle populations.

Bald Eagle Crossword Puzzle

Directions: Based on what you read about the bald eagle on page 5, complete the sentences and fill in the puzzle.



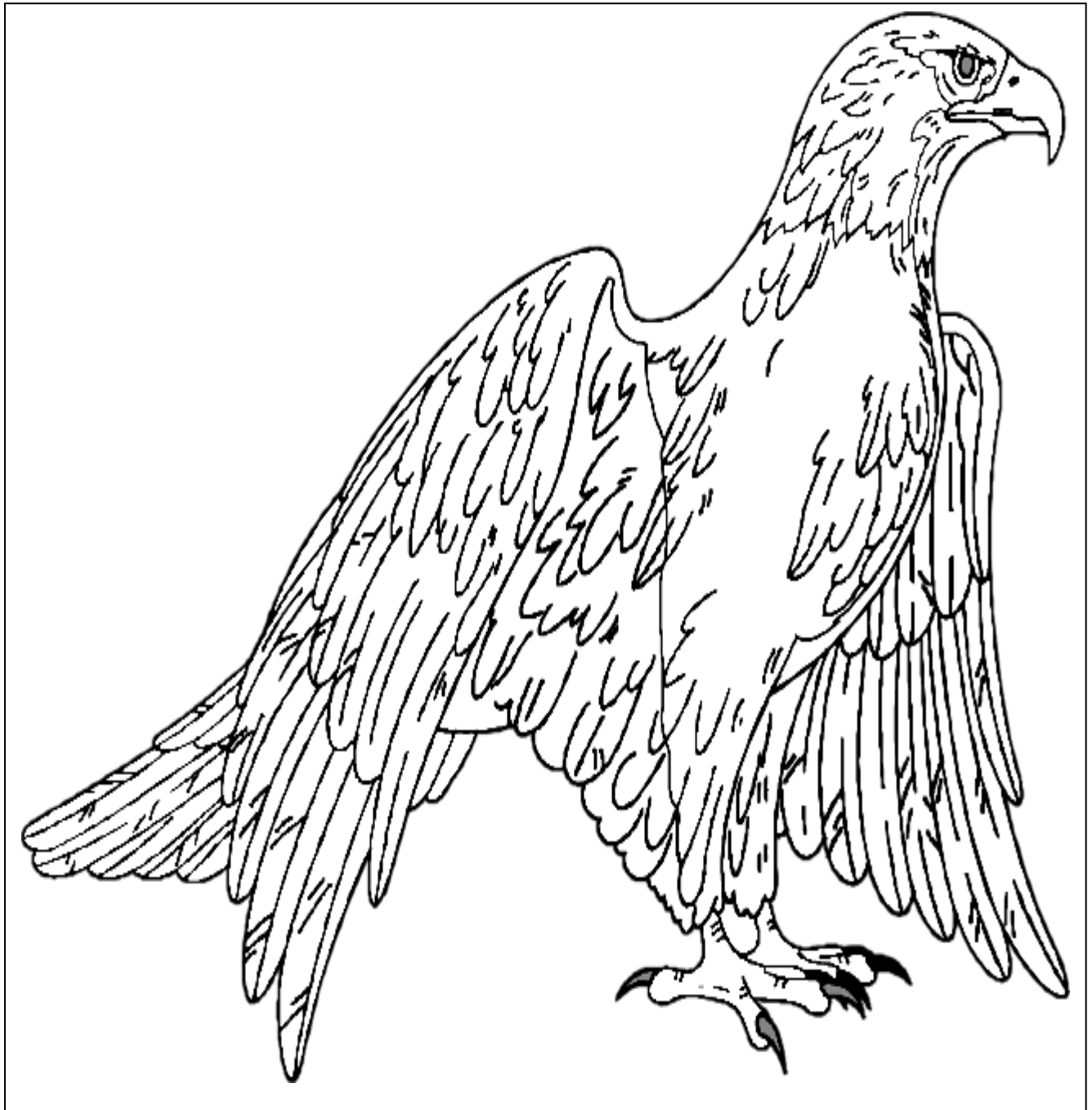
Down:

1. The bald eagle is the national _____ of the United States.
3. The bald eagle symbolizes _____.
5. The bald eagle symbolizes _____.
7. The bald eagle symbolizes _____.
9. The bald eagle symbolizes _____.

Across:

2. Where can the bald eagle only be found? (2 words) _____
4. This is an old word meaning "marked with white." _____
6. The bald eagle faced near _____.
8. In 1967, the bald eagle was included on the Threatened and _____ Species List.
10. Federal laws, such as the Bald Eagle _____ Act, protect the bald eagle and have led to the recovery of bald eagle populations.





The American Bald Eagle

The Great Seal



On July 4, 1776, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson were given the task of creating a seal for the United States of America. The delegates of the Constitutional Convention believed an emblem and national coat of arms would declare to the world that the U.S. was an independent nation and had a free people with high hopes for the future. The Great Seal was finalized and approved six years later on June 20, 1782. The seal reflects the beliefs and values that the Founding Fathers wanted to pass on to their descendants.

In the center of the seal is a bald eagle, the national bird. It holds in its beak a scroll inscribed *E pluribus unum*, which is Latin meaning "out of many, one" and stands for one nation that was created from 13 colonies. In one claw is an olive branch, while the other holds a bundle of thirteen arrows. The olive branch and arrows "denote the power of peace and war."

A shield with thirteen red and white stripes covers the eagle's breast. The shield is supported solely by the American eagle to denote that Americans should rely on their own virtue. The red and white stripes of the shield represent the states united under and supporting the blue, representing the president and Congress. The color white signifies purity; red, bravery; and blue, justice. Above the eagle's head is a cloud surrounding a blue field containing thirteen stars, which forms a constellation. The constellation denotes that a new state is taking its place among other nations.

Pattern Mania

Do you see a pattern of thirteen in the Great Seal? There are 6 in all. Can you find them all?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Why thirteen? Thirteen represents the first thirteen states.

Can you name the original thirteen states?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____

