

SYMBOLS, SONGS, AND STORIES OF THE UNITED STATES



TIME

60+ Minutes

STANDARDS

WV SS.3.5 and WV ELA 3.1; 3.4; 3.10



TOPIC

Rights & Responsibilities

GRADE

3rd Grade

LEARNING OUTCOMES

-  Civics: I can examine how the rights and responsibilities of citizens are reflected in patriotic symbols, songs, and holidays of the United States (SS.3.5),
-  ELA: I can ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for answers (RI.3.1), and determine the meaning of general academic vocabulary in a text (RI.3.4)

MATERIALS

- Printed “[Notice & Wonder](#)” worksheet
- Printed “[Test & Text Dependent Questions](#)” Packet
- Vocabulary chart (optional projection or handout)
- Chart paper or whiteboard
- Student writing journals or response sheets
- Crayons/colored pencils

VOCABULARY

- **symbol** - something that stands for something else
- **represent** - to stand for or mean something
- **unity** - when people or things work together as one
- **pledge** - a promise to do something
- **anthem** - a special song showing love for a country

1) ANTICIPATORY SET: NOTICE & WONDER (10 MINUTES)

- Display the patriotic image (from Notice & Wonder worksheet) on the board or pass out copies.
- Have students complete the “What do you notice? What do you wonder?” activity in pairs or small groups.
- After writing, share responses as a class. Chart a few key notices and wonders to refer to later during reading.
- Ask guiding questions like:
 - “Why do you think red, white, and blue are used so often?”
 - “What holidays or traditions do these images remind you of?”

2) VOCABULARY INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES)

- Introduce the 5 vocabulary terms: **symbol**, **represent**, **unity**, **pledge**, **anthem**.
- Use the definitions and example sentences from the packet (page 2).
- **Act It Out:** Assign a word to small groups and have them act it out or create a gesture to represent the meaning.
- **Optional:** Display words on a Word Wall or vocabulary cards.

[CLICK HERE FOR SUMMARY & EXTENSION ACTIVITIES, DIFFERENTIATION, AND ASSESSMENT IDEAS](#)



3) SHARED READING: INFORMATIONAL TEXT (15 MINUTES)

- Read the patriotic symbols and holidays text aloud (page 1 of packet).
- Project the text or provide student copies for partner reading.
- Pause after each paragraph to discuss:
 - What symbol was described?
 - What values or responsibilities are shown?
 - How does this connect to what we noticed in the picture?

4) TEXT MARK-UP & VISUAL CONNECTION (5 MINUTES)

- Ask students to underline parts of the text that explain the meaning of flag colors and stars.
- Prompt them to draw quick sketch notes in the margins or on a sticky note (e.g., a red stripe = courage).
- Invite a few students to point out connections between the text and the Notice & Wonder image.

5) COMPREHENSION CHECK (10 MINUTES)

- Distribute or project 2-3 multiple choice questions (page 2) and discuss answers together.
- Follow up with 1-2 short answer questions (page 3) in writing or orally.
- Encourage citing the text when answering (e.g., "In paragraph 2, it says...").

6) THINK-PAIR-SHARE: WHAT MAKES YOUR STATE SPECIAL? (5 MINUTES)

- Pose the open-ended question from page 4:
 - "What do you think makes your state special?"
- Students think quietly, then turn to a partner to discuss their ideas
- Volunteers share aloud while you chart a few responses.

7) GROUP ROTATIONS: RESPECT & RESPONSIBILITY (10 MINUTES)

- Divide students into 3-4 small groups.
- Each group rotates through table stations with one open-ended or short answer question card (pages 5-6).
- Students write a response on paper or sticky notes before moving to the next table.
- Sample stations:
 - How can you show respect for the flag?
 - What does the anthem celebrate?
 - Why is unity important?

8) ARTISTIC REFLECTION (10 MINUTES)

- Hand out half sheets of paper. Ask students to create a visual that includes:
 - One patriotic symbol (flag, eagle, etc.)
 - A sentence using at least one vocabulary word
 - An example of good citizenship (e.g., helping others, saying the pledge, recycling)
- Encourage students to be creative and colorful.