

# 03 American Figures/Symbols

Content Area: **Social Studies**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Full Year**  
Length: **1 Trimester**  
Status: **Published**

## **General Overview, Course Description or Course Philosophy**

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The First Grade American Figures Unit is designed to provide learners with the knowledge, skills and perspective needed to identify American Figures and explain their meaning in relationship to America. Lessons are aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and will infuse technology and ELA within projects, activities, and written products.

## **OBJECTIVES, ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS, ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS**

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### **Enduring Understandings:**

- Historical symbols play a role in understanding our history.
- National symbols are a proud representation of patriotism.

### **Essential Questions:**

- What are some examples of American Symbols?
- What is the importance of having American Symbols?
- Who are some examples of American figures?
- How did these American figures impact America?
- How does understanding the past help us understand the present?

## **RELATED STANDARDS (Technology, 21st Century Life & Careers, ELA Companion Standards are Required)**

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LA.RI.1.2	Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.
LA.RI.1.3	Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text.
LA.SL.1.1.A	Follow agreed-upon norms for discussions (e.g., listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and texts under discussion).
LA.SL.1.1.B	Build on others' talk in conversations by responding to the comments of others through multiple exchanges.
LA.SL.1.1.C	Ask questions to clear up any confusion about the topics and texts under discussion.
WRK.K-12.P.1	Act as a responsible and contributing community members and employee.
WRK.K-12.P.5	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
TECH.9.4.2.IML.1	Identify a simple search term to find information in a search engine or digital resource.

Digital tools and media resources provide access to vast stores of information that can be searched.

## **CONTENT AREA STANDARDS**

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SOC.6.1.2.CivicsDP.1

Explain how national symbols reflect on American values and principles.

SOC.6.1.2.CivicsDP.3

Explain how historical symbols, monuments and holidays reflect the shared values, principles, and beliefs of the American identity.

## **STUDENT LEARNING TARGETS**

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### **Declarative Knowledge**

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Students will understand that:

- American symbols and monuments can be found in many places and are tied to our nation's history.
- Our country has been shaped and influenced by past leaders who strived to make changes.

### **Procedural Knowledge**

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Students will be able to:

- Identify prominent United States figures such as: George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Describe the accomplishments of key figures in relation to the United States.
- Explain how United States figures helped shape America.
- Identify prominent United States landmarks such as: White House, Ellis Island, Mount Rushmore, etc.
- Explain the historical significance behind United States landmarks.
- Recall facts about United States symbols such as: Liberty Bell, Statue of Liberty, Bald Eagle and The Flag.
- Establish a connection between the symbols and history.

## **EVIDENCE OF LEARNING**

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### **Benchmark Assessments**

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Benchmark assessments through Pear Assessments conducted three times per year

## **Alternative Assessments**

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Alternative:

- KWL chart
- Jigsaw Activity- Assign specific students to a specific continent then have them turnkey and teach their group members about their continent.

## **Formative Assessments**

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- KWL Chart
- Class Discussions
- Teacher Observations

Alternative:

- Student Activities
- Exit Slips

## **Summative Assessments**

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- Write an information book about a famous American.
- American Symbols/Figures Presentation - Put students into small groups and have them put together a visual report to share with the class. Report can include: history, facts, important information, sculpture, etc.

## **RESOURCES (Instructional, Supplemental, Intervention Materials)**

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Core:

Magazine

- Scholastic News: American Symbols
- Studies Weekly

Books:

- Follow the Dream: The Story of Christopher Columbus by Peter Sis
- Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport
- The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles
- Henry's Freedom Box by Ellen Levine
- The Statue of Liberty, Debby Atwell
- The Story of the Statue of Liberty, Betsy Maestro
- Symbols of the United States Youtube Clip: <http://www.viewpure.com/CJLGw0lkcdE?start=0&end=0>
- National Monuments, Historic Sites, and Landmarks Youtube Clip: <http://www.viewpure.com/gMYkqpl3Xm4?start=0&end=0>
- The 12 Most Amazing American Monuments and Symbols Read Aloud (EPIC)

Supplemental:

Interactive/Online

- Brain Pop, Jr.: U.S. Symbols: <https://educators.brainpop.com/bp-jr-topic/us-symbols/>, Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island
- Brain Pop, Jr.: Rosa Parks, Susan B. Anthony, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Christopher Columbus, Martin Luther King, Jr., Ruby Bridges, George Washington Carver, Jackie Robinson, Harriet Tubman, Clara Barton

EPIC has many books on United States symbols, landmarks and monuments. \*\*

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS**

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- Technology/Multimedia: Google, Educational Tech Applications
- English/Language Arts: Information Writing

## **ACCOMMODATIONS & MODIFICATIONS FOR SUBGROUPS**

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See link to Accommodations & Modifications document in course folder.

- Allow verbal responses
- Cooperative learning opportunities
- Utilize illustrations to reflect understanding
- Use of technology and songs
- Provide opportunities to collaborate with peers
- Sentence starters
- Shared Writing

