



Famous American Symbols



The White House



- Located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC, the White House is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the country. The White House has been the official residence of all the presidents of the United States with the exception of George Washington.
- The White House has six floors--two basements, two public floors, and two floors for the First Family. The Oval Office is where the President does the business of the country--signing bills and Executive Orders.

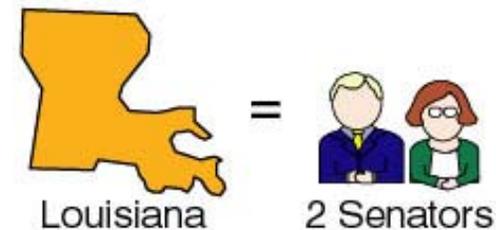
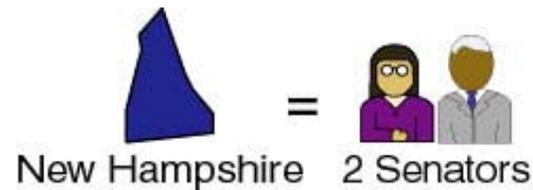
The Capitol Building



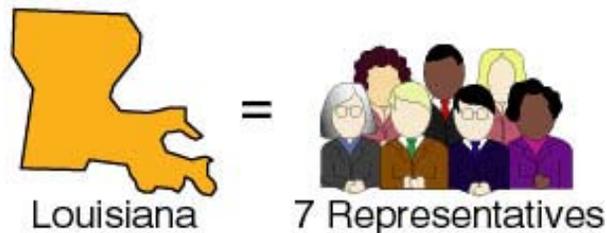
- Built on a hill popularly called *Capitol Hill* in Washington, DC, the U.S. Capitol has been the home of the House of Representatives and the Senate since 1800.
- The iron dome has a statue of a woman on top representing Freedom. The height of the Capitol to the top of the statue is 287.5 ft (87.6 m).

The U.S. Senate

- There are a total of 100 members in the Senate. The Constitution states that the vice president has formal control over the Senate and is known as the president of the Senate. The vice president is present for important ceremonies and to cast a tie-breaking vote.
- Senators, elected for six-year terms, must be 30 years old, a citizen for at least nine years, and a resident of the state from which they are elected.



The House of Representatives



- There are a total of 435 members in the House of Representatives. Each member represents an area of a state, known as a congressional district. The number of representatives is based on the number of districts in a state. Each state is guaranteed one seat.
- Representatives, elected for two-year terms, must be 25 years old, a citizen for at least seven years, and a resident of the state from which they are elected.

Independence Hall



- Located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Independence Hall was built between 1732 and 1756.
- Many of the most important documents in U.S. history were written at Independence Hall. The Declaration of Independence was adopted here. The Constitution was written here and signed on September 17, 1787.
- Independence Hall was also the home of the Liberty Bell for over 200 years.



The Liberty Bell



- Cast in London, England in 1752, the Liberty Bell rang when the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence and has become the symbol of freedom in the United States. The bell weighs about 2000 pounds and is made mostly of copper (70%) and tin (25%).

The Supreme Court

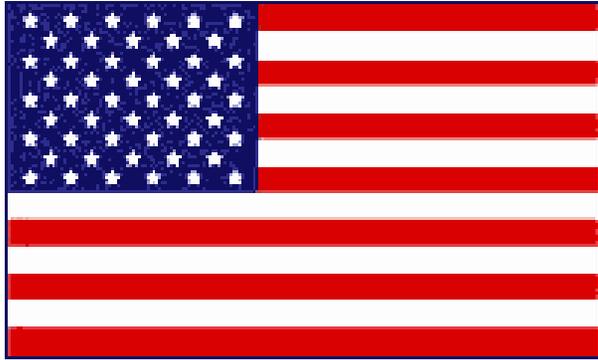


- Located in Washington, DC near the Capitol, this building has housed the Supreme Court since 1935.



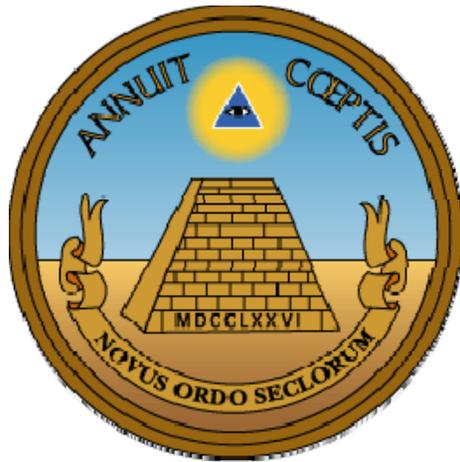
- Sixteen marble columns may be found at the main entrance of the Court. Above the entrance to the Supreme Court Building appears engraved motto "Equal Justice Under Law."

The American Flag



- The first U.S. flag became official on June 14th, 1777 with 13 stars.
- (1st) [Delaware](#) December 7th, 1787
- (2nd) [Pennsylvania](#) December 12th, 1787
- (3rd) [New Jersey](#) December 18th, 1787
- (4th) [Georgia](#) January 2nd, 1788
- (5th) [Connecticut](#) January 9th, 1788
- (6th) [Massachusetts](#) February 6th, 1788
- (7th) [Maryland](#) April 28th, 1788
- (8th) [South Carolina](#) May 23rd, 1788
- (9th) [New Hampshire](#) June 21st, 1788
- (10th) [Virginia](#) June 25th, 1788
- (11th) [New York](#) July 25th, 1788
- (12th) [North Carolina](#) November 21st, 1789
- (13th) [Rhode Island](#) May 29th, 1790
- Stars have been added to the flag as new states join the union. Currently, the flag contains 50 stars.

The Seal of the U.S.



- 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.
- Do you see a pattern of thirteen in the Great Seal?
- 13 stars in the crest above the eagle
- 13 stripes in the shield upon the eagle's breast
- 13 arrows in the eagle's left claw
- 13 olives and leaves in the eagles' right claw
- 13 letters in the motto carried by the eagle, *E Pluribus Unum*
- Why thirteen? Thirteen represents the first thirteen states.



The American Bald Eagle



- The bald eagle was made the national bird of the United States in 1782. The image of the bald eagle can be found in many places in the U.S., such as on the Great Seal, Federal agency seals, the President's flag, and on the one-dollar bill.





Uncle Sam



- Uncle Sam is often dressed in red, white, and blue, and wears a top hat.
- The most famous picture of Uncle Sam appeared on an Army recruiting poster. The poster was designed in World War I, and was used again in World War II. The caption reads "I Want You for U.S. Army."



The National Anthem



- During the War of 1812, on September 13, 1814, Francis Scott Key was held by the British overnight during the shelling of Fort McHenry. In the morning, Key saw an enormous American flag flying proudly after a 25-hour British bombardment. He was so delighted to see the flag still flying over the fort that he began a poem. The next day, the poem was completed. A few days later, it was put to music.
- In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson ordered that it be played at military and naval occasions. In 1931, the *Star-Spangled Banner* became our national anthem.



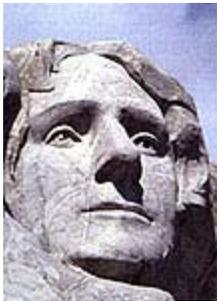
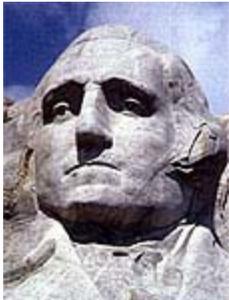
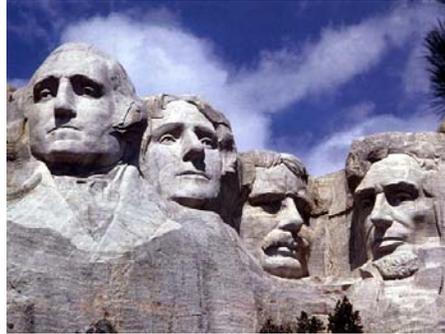
The Statue of Liberty



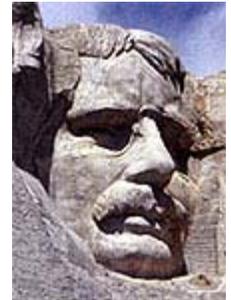
- Located in New York, at 151 feet (46 meters) tall, the Statue of Liberty symbolizes freedom throughout the world. The Statue was a gift from the people of France.
- The statue, made of copper and iron, is a woman escaping the chains of tyranny, which lie at her feet. Her right hand holds aloft a burning torch that represents liberty. Her left hand holds a tablet inscribed with the date "July 4, 1776," the day the United States declared its independence from England. The seven rays of her spiked crown symbolize the seven seas and continents.
- France has a smaller version that faces her "big sister."



Mount Rushmore



- In the Black Hills of South Dakota, stands the national memorial, Mount Rushmore. This magnificent rock carving depicts the 60-foot high (18.3 m) faces of four great U.S. Presidents. They are: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.
- The monument was started in 1927 and was completed in 1941. The head of Washington was completed first, followed by Jefferson and Lincoln. Roosevelt's head was the last finished. The original design was a sculpture of the four presidents to their waists, but time and money only provided for their heads.



The Jefferson Memorial



- Located in Washington, DC, the Jefferson Memorial honors Thomas Jefferson -- author of the Declaration of Independence, first Secretary of State, and third President of the United States.
- In the center of the memorial is a standing statue of Jefferson. On the inside walls are four inscriptions based upon Jefferson's writings. They describe his beliefs in freedom, education of all people, and the need for change in the laws and institutions of a democracy.

The Lincoln Memorial

- Located on the National Mall in Washington, DC, the Lincoln Memorial honors Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States. Lincoln was President during the Civil War (1861-65). The memorial symbolizes his belief that all people should be free.
- The chamber inside the memorial contains a statue of Lincoln seated, facing the Capitol. The statue of Lincoln is 19 feet high and weighs 175 tons. The chamber also houses two huge stone tables, one engraved with Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, and the other with the Gettysburg Address.

