



Name _____

Date _____

Important Symbols for California and America

- 1 Symbols are all around us. A symbol is something that stands for something else. Symbols are important because they help us remember important things about where we live. Symbols also help us remember why America is a special country.
- 2 The American flag is a special symbol that stands for our country. The U.S. flag has fifty white stars on a blue background. Each star stands for one of the fifty states that make up the United States. The American flag also has thirteen red and white stripes. The thirteen stripes represent the original thirteen colonies which later became the first states in 1776. The American flag is red, white, and blue. Red stands for courage, valor, blood and life. White stands for purity and peace. Blue represents the sky and symbolizes respect for God.
- 3 The symbol of our state is the California Bear Flag. California became a state in 1850. The Bear Flag was adopted in 1911. At the center of the flag is a large, brown grizzly bear. The grizzly bear stands for strength. The upper left corner of the flag has a red star. The idea for the star was taken from the Lone Star flag of Texas.
- 4 Another important national symbol is the bald eagle. The bald eagle is America's national bird. The bald eagle was chosen because the eagle is known for being independent and free. Therefore, the bald eagle is a symbol of America's strength and freedom.
- 5 The country of France donated the Statue of Liberty to America in 1884. "Lady Liberty" stands tall on Liberty Island in New York. The large, hollow statue is of a woman that is holding a torch. The torch stands for liberty. This statue gives many Americans a feeling of pride. Emma Lazarus wrote a famous poem which is on the base of the Statue of Liberty. Part of it reads, "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-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" When many immigrants sailed to America, the first thing they saw was this magnificent statue.





- 1 A symbol is
- (A) a pair of metal plates used as a musical instrument.
 - (B) to join together.
 - (C) being able to do or say what you want.
 - (D) something that stands for something else.
-

- 2 Which best describes what each star on the American flag stands for?
- (A) Each star stands for one state.
 - (B) The stars stand for freedom.
 - (C) They stand for the colonies.
 - (D) They stand for constellations.
-

- 3 Who wrote the poem at the base of the Statue of Liberty?
- (A) George Washington
 - (B) the country of France
 - (C) Emma Lazarus
 - (D) Dollie Madison
-

- 4 Which symbol would you predict was most likely sewn by Betsy Ross in 1776?
- (A) the Statue of Liberty
 - (B) the bald eagle
 - (C) the American flag
 - (D) the California Bear Flag
-

- 5 A student in your class tells you that she got to go inside of one of these symbols. Which symbol would you predict that most likely was?
- (A) the American Flag
 - (B) the Statue of Liberty
 - (C) the bald eagle
 - (D) the California Bear Flag
-

- 6 The island of Puerto Rico is considering becoming a new state in the United States. How would the American flag MOST likely change if this ever happens?
- (A) a star would be taken away
 - (B) a new stripe would be added
 - (C) a new color would be added
 - (D) a new star would be added
-

- 7 Which of the following states the main idea for paragraph 2?
- (A) The American flag is a special symbol that stands for our country.
 - (B) The U.S. flag has fifty white stars on a blue background.
 - (C) The American flag is red, white, and blue.
 - (D) White stands for purity and peace.
-



8 Paragraph 3 is mostly about

- Ⓐ how California became a state.
 - Ⓑ the California Bear Flag.
 - Ⓒ grizzly bears.
 - Ⓓ the Lone Star flag of Texas.
-

9 Which detail *best* supports the idea that the Statue of Liberty is an important symbol?

- Ⓐ The statue gives many Americans a feeling of pride.
 - Ⓑ The statue is located in New York.
 - Ⓒ The statue is hollow.
 - Ⓓ The country of France donated it to America.
-

10 Paragraph 4 is mostly about

- Ⓐ the Statue of Liberty.
 - Ⓑ the American flag.
 - Ⓒ America's national bird.
 - Ⓓ eagles.
-



The following is a rough draft of a student's report, which may contain errors.

The Statue of Liberty

(1) What will go down in history as one of the greatest birthday gifts ever? (2) The Statue of Liberty could very possibly be given this honor. (3) The Statue was given to America on its 108th birthday on July 4, 1884. (4) Other statues, such as the Great Sphinx and Christ the Redeemer, are known for their artistic qualities. (5) Who gave America the Statue and why is it so special?



(6) The statue was given to America by the country of France as a monument to America's freedom. (7) A sculptor built it. (8) The statue was constructed from many thin copper sheets that were hammered into shape and riveted together. (9) It is 151 feet and 1 inch tall. (10) It was the tallest structure in the United States. (11) The seven rays in the crown represent the seven continents and seven seas.

(12) The Statue of Liberty is a symbol of freedom to millions of people around the world. (13) She inspired hope to the millions of immigrants who saw her when they first arrived in America. (14) The statue communicates the message that anybody in America has the chance at freedom and success. (15) A message at the base of the statue reads,

*"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-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*



- 11 Read these sentences from paragraph 2.

It is 151 feet and 1 inch tall. It was the tallest structure in the United States.

Which expression should be added to the beginning of the second sentence?

- (A) The next step,
- (B) At the time,
- (C) To begin with,
- (D) Little by little,

- 12 Which sentence would be *best* to remove from the first paragraph?

- (A) What will go down in history as one of the greatest birthday gifts ever?
- (B) The Statue of Liberty could very possibly be given this honor.
- (C) The Statue was given to America on its 108th birthday on July 4, 1884.
- (D) Other statues, such as the Great Sphinx and Christ the Redeemer, are known for their artistic qualities.

- 13 Read the following sentence.

Because of these features, the Statue of Liberty can be quite an amazing sight.

For which paragraph in the rough draft would this be the *best* concluding sentence?

- (A) the first paragraph
- (B) the second paragraph
- (C) the third paragraph
- (D) the fourth paragraph

- 14 Which of the following revisions would make sentence 7 more informative?

- (A) It took a French sculptor a long time to build it.
- (B) A sculptor labored for many years on the statue.
- (C) It took sculptor Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi 21 years to design and build the statue.
- (D) About 20 years were spent working on the statue.



15 Which of these sentences would be *best* to add as the last sentence of the third paragraph?

- (A) The Statue of Liberty will probably need to be restored sometime soon.
- (B) The torch on the Statue of Liberty is covered in 24-karat gold.
- (C) The green covering on the outside of the statue is a form of corrosion known as patina.
- (D) Hopefully, the Statue of Liberty will be a beacon of hope for many years to come.

16 You overhear a classmate say that the Statue of Liberty was donated by Russia. Based on your reading, you know that this is an incorrect statement. Select and copy the sentence from the rough draft which proves that it was NOT Russia who donated the statue.

17 How do the two passages most differ in structure and content?



18 The message at the base of the Statue of Liberty uses adjectives to describe the types of people which should immigrate to America from their own country's "teeming shore". Identify five types of people the Statue's message is beckoning to America's "golden door".

A	B	C	D	E

19 The Statue of Liberty isn't just an ordinary statue, for it symbolizes a great idea. What idea is the Statue of Liberty communicating to people around the world?



20 We've been told that symbols are all around us. An example of this fact is that your own school likely has a mascot. A mascot is a common type of symbol which is used by organizations for good luck. How much do you know about your mascot? You may need to research your school's website, handbook, or interview your teacher or principal to complete the task.

(A) Draw your school's mascot.

(B) What is your school's mascot? Does it have a name?

(C) Why was this mascot chosen for your school? Which ideas are symbolized by your mascot?

(D) Would you choose to keep your school's mascot? Why or why not?



The following is a rough draft of a student's report. It contains errors.

Uncle Sam

(1) In 1961, Congress passed a resolution recognizing Uncle Sam as a national symbol. (2) Uncle Sam has become a famous image. (3) His image is that of a tall, thin man with white hair and a beard. (4) He wears an eccentric costume consisting of a top hat decorated with stars, trousers with red and white stripes, a long blue coat, and a vest. (5) President Abraham Lincoln frequently wore top hats. (6) Uncle Sam symbolizes the United States of America.



(7) How did this figure come to stand for the United States? (8) During the War of 1812, Sam Wilson of Troy, New York, supplied barrels of meat to the U.S. Army. (9) Each barrel was stamped with the letters "U.S." for United States, but his workers joked that the initials stood for "Uncle Sam" Wilson. (10) The trend caught on. (11) Soon anything marked "U.S." people said was belonging to Uncle Sam.

(12) Political cartoonists adopted the idea. (13) The cartoonists sketched Uncle Sam as a character representing the United States. (14) At first, he was a clean-shaven gentleman in a black tailcoat. (15) Later, after the Civil War, cartoonist Thomas Nast illustrated a bearded Uncle Sam in a flashy red, white and blue costume.



21 How can sentence 2 and sentence 3 best be combined?

- (A) Uncle Sam has become a famous image, and his image is that of a tall, thin man with white hair and a beard.
- (B) Uncle Sam has become a famous image, with his image being that of a tall, thin man with white hair and a beard.
- (C) Uncle Sam has become the famous image of a tall, thin man with white hair and a beard.
- (D) Uncle Sam has become a famous image that of a tall, thin man with white hair and a beard.

22 What is the best way to write sentence 11?

- (A) Anything marked "U.S." people said was soon belonging to Uncle Sam.
- (B) Soon anything marked "U.S." was said to belong to Uncle Sam.
- (C) Anything marked "U.S." soon people said was belonging to Uncle Sam.
- (D) Soon anything marked "U.S." was belonging to Uncle Sam.

23 Read these sentences from the student's report.

Political cartoonists adopted the idea. The cartoonists sketched Uncle Sam as a character representing the United States.

Which of these is the best way to combine these sentences?

- (A) Adopting the idea and political cartoonists sketched Uncle Sam as a character representing the United States.
- (B) Political cartoonists adopted the idea which they sketched Uncle Sam as a character representing the United States.
- (C) Political cartoonists adopting the idea and they sketched Uncle Sam as a character representing the United States.
- (D) Political cartoonists adopted the idea and sketched Uncle Sam as a character representing the United States.



24 Which sentence in the passage should the student delete?

- (A) Uncle Sam has become a famous image.
 - (B) How did this figure come to stand for the United States?
 - (C) President Abraham Lincoln frequently wore top hats.
 - (D) At first, he was a clean-shaven gentleman in a black tailcoat.
-

25 Which sentence should the student add to the end of the report?

- (A) That image caught on, and by the early 1900's that depiction of Uncle Sam was familiar around the world.
 - (B) Uncle Sam's costume may have been inspired by a circus clown who wore a red, white, and blue suit and a top hat.
 - (C) Abraham Lincoln was the Republican President during the Civil War.
 - (D) Most people don't know whatever became of Sam Wilson of Troy, New York.
-



- 26 Sentence 4 in the student's report says that Uncle Sam is portrayed with a top hat. How is a top hat different from other hats you have seen?

- 27 Sam Wilson supplied _____ to the U.S. Army.

- 28 Details in the passage indicate that the initials "U.S." can stand for two different names. List them here.

(A) _____

(B) _____

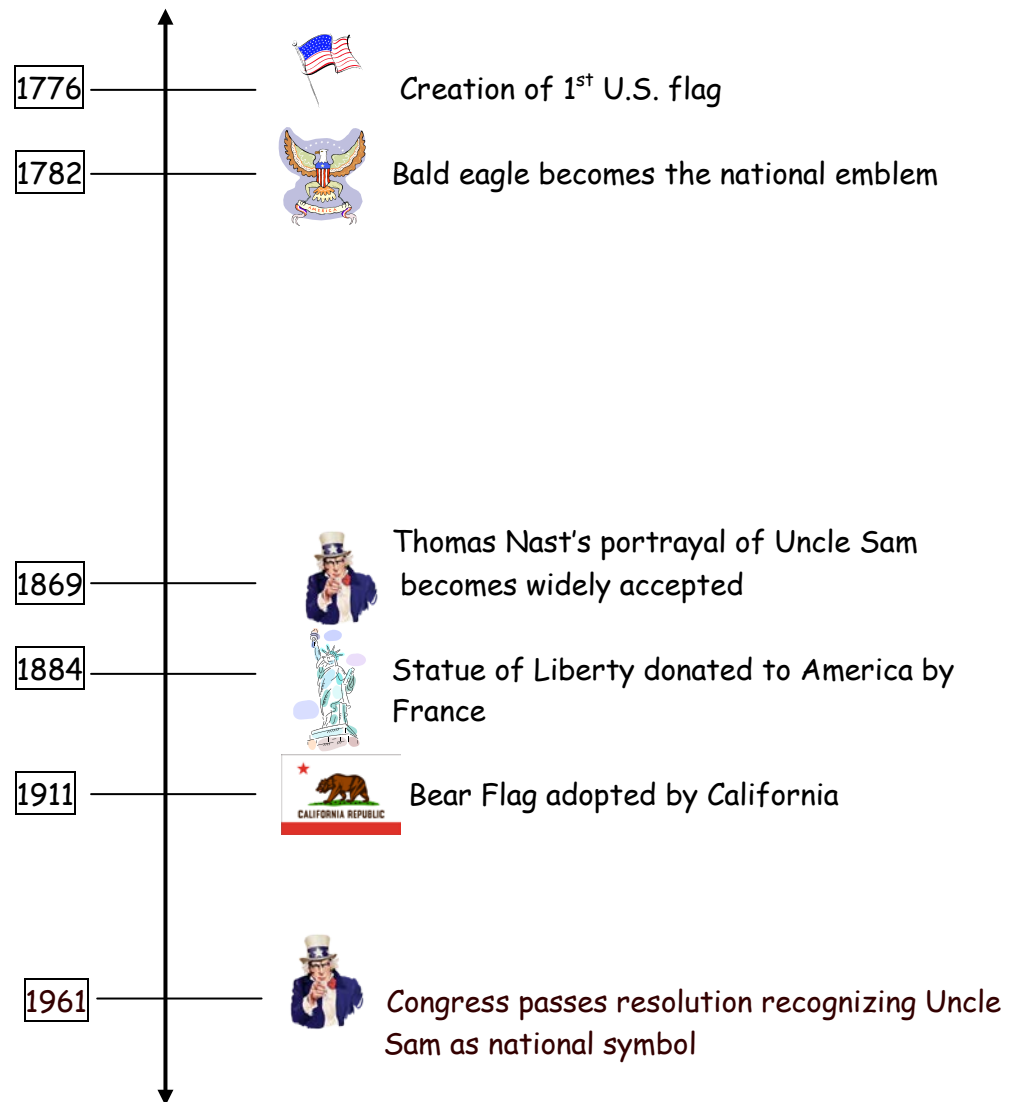
- 29 (A) Which sentence names the cartoonist that illustrated the famous Uncle Sam we now know today? (B) Who is the cartoonist?

(A) _____

(B) _____

- 30 Based on information in the rough draft on page 9, what does Uncle Sam symbolize?

Timeline of Famous American Symbols






31 How many years passed between the creation of the first U.S. flag and the adoption of the California Bear Flag?

32 How many years passed between Thomas Nast's portrayal of Uncle Sam and Congress passing a resolution officially recognizing Uncle Sam as a national symbol?

33 When did France donate the Statue of Liberty to the United States?

34 When was the first U.S. flag created?

35 Select one word from each passage and use a thesaurus to find its synonym. 

	Word	Synonym
Important Symbols for California and America		
The Statue of Liberty		
Uncle Sam		

36 Select one word from each passage, and use a thesaurus to find its antonym. 

	Word	Antonym
Important Symbols for California and America		
The Statue of Liberty		
Uncle Sam		



37 Read this sentence from "The Statue of Liberty." "The statue was **constructed** from many thin copper sheets that were hammered into shape and riveted together."

➤ The word constructed has the Latin root "struct", which means _____.

➤ What do you believe the word "constructed" means in this context? _____

➤ Consult a reference source, and select three new words with the same root, "struct".

1	2	3
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38 Select five novel words from the reading passages. Copy each word. Copy the sentence from the passage which contains your selected word. Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the word as it is used in the sentence.

Word	Sentence From the Passage	Dictionary Definition



39 Directions: Use clues from the previous passages to create your own crossword puzzle.

Step 1: Select a clue from one of the previous passages.

Step 2: Write the clue in either the "Down" column or the "Across" column. Make sure to number each clue.

Step 3: Each letter gets its own box. Make sure to place the number for the clue in the box where your answer begins.

Step 4: Completely darken any unused boxes.

Step 5: Trade your puzzle with a partner and try to solve each other's puzzles. Have fun and be creative! 😊

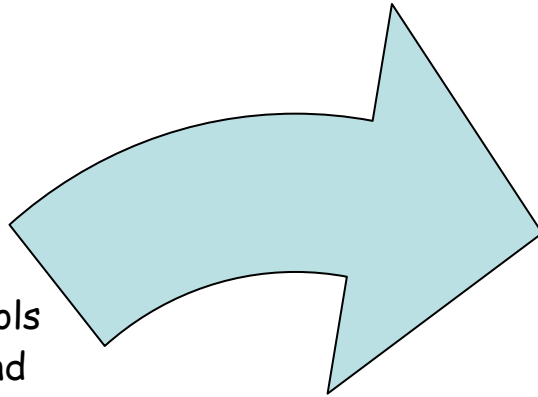
(The first two have been done for you)

	Down		Across
1	This country donated the Statue of Liberty.		
		2	Last name of the poet who wrote the message at the base of the Statue of Liberty.

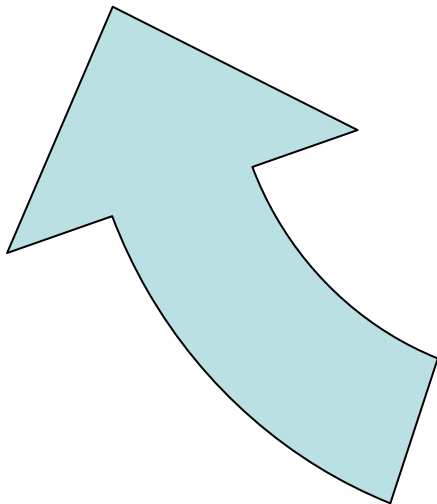


40 Directions: Analyze all three passages and examine how they are all related. Use the space in the middle of the paper, between the three arrows to write a description of how the three passages share a common connection with each other.

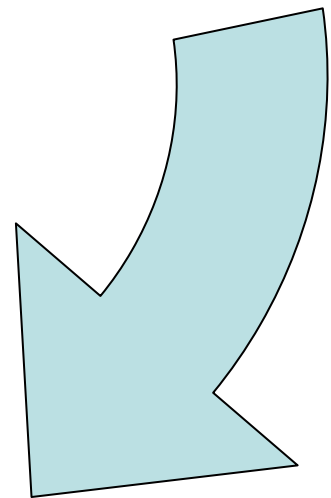
Important Symbols
for California and
America



The Statue of
Liberty



Uncle Sam





Extended Learning Opportunities / Performance Tasks

1 Select one of America's national symbols and create a PowerPoint presentation to share with the class which contains at least the following components:

- image(s) of the selected symbol
- a summary of background information (such as):
 - what is the symbol?
 - when was it adopted?
 - what does it symbolize?
 - who was it first made by? (if it was made at all)
 - interesting details or statistics
- explanation of why you picked this symbol

2 Use reference sources such as an encyclopedia, a history book, and/or the internet to research the physical properties of Ellis Island, and create a poster sized illustration, to scale, to share with the class. Ellis Island is not only the home of the Statue of Liberty, but it also served as the gateway for millions of immigrants to the United States. Make sure to find and include the following components:

- the size and shape of the island
- geographic features on / near the island
- all man-made structures of significance on the island
- the number of immigrants who entered America through Ellis Island
- current condition of the island

3 Create a Venn Diagram which compares and contrasts two national symbols of your choice, and present it to the class.

4 If you research Thomas Nast, you will discover that he has created other famous illustrations besides Uncle Sam. Research Thomas Nast and his famous illustrations. Select and recreate one of his other famous illustrations. Write an informative description of Thomas Nast and his illustrations. Be ready to present your findings to the class.

5 Reread and carefully examine the Emma Lazarus poem that's at the base of the Statue of Liberty. Try to draw some conclusions about the following questions:

- Who is the intended audience of this message?
- Why do you think it was written to them?
- What is the deeper meaning?

Write an informative essay which includes an explanation of the deeper message the poem is trying to convey to the world about America. Do you believe that this message is still true today?



Answers (Some Answers Will Vary)

Multiple-Choice / Selected Response

1	D
2	A
3	C
4	C
5	B

6	D
7	A
8	B
9	A
10	C

11	B
12	D
13	B
14	C
15	D

21	C
22	B
23	D
24	C
25	A

Constructed/Extended Response

16 The statue was given to America by France as a monument to America's freedom.

17 The first passage, "Important Symbols for California and America", focuses on the broad topic of American symbols. It gives several examples of important symbols: the U.S. Flag, the CA Bear Flag, the bald eagle, and the Statue of Liberty. The second passage, "The Statue of Liberty", is a student's rough draft. Rather than focus on several American symbols, it only provides details which relate to the Statue of Liberty.

18 tired, poor, huddled masses, yearn to breathe free, wretched refuse, homeless, tempest-tost

19 The statue is communicating a general message of freedom. Lady Liberty and her message convey that America is great and successful because its people are free. Further, anyone who comes to America with a love for freedom in their heart can be a success in this country. They may have been doomed to a terrible fate in their previous country, but in America they can be something great. All people here have an equal opportunity for success because of their freedom. Ultimately, this is a message to all the world leaders that free people will always be more successful than those that are ruled over in a dictatorial fashion.

20 Answers will vary based on your school's specific mascot.

21-25 See above

26 The illustration shows that top hats appear to be tall, rigid hats, with an upward curved brim all the way around.

27 barrels of meat

28 U.S. can stand for United States or Uncle Sam

29 Sentence 15 says that the cartoonist that drew Uncle Sam was Thomas Nast.

30 Sentence 6 says that Uncle Sam represents the United States of America

31 1911-1776= 135 years

32 1961-1869= 92 years

33 1884

34 1776.

35 Answers will vary

36 Answers will vary



37 *struct* = "build"

construct = the act of building something (answers will vary)

structure, obstruct, instruct (answers will vary)

38 Accept accurate responses

39 Answers will vary. Accept complete and correct crossword puzzles.

40 Answers will vary. Accept responses which accurately make a connection between the texts.