

Symbols & Holidays

USCIS questions

In the Symbols & Holidays theme:

96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?
97. Why does the flag have 50 stars?
98. What is the name of the national anthem?
52. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?
95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?
99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?
100. Name two national U.S. Holidays.

Related:

72. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.
90. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?

The Star-Spangled Banner lyrics

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Directions: As you watch the video, write down the answers to the questions below. Eventually you'll have your answers for all 100 civics questions.

American Flag: Stripes

Why does the flag have 13 stripes? USCIS #96

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American Flag: Stars

Why does the flag have 50 stars? USCIS #97

.....

National Anthem

What is the name of the national anthem? USCIS #98

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Pledge of Allegiance

What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance? USCIS #52

.....

Statue of Liberty

Where is the Statue of Liberty? USCIS #95

.....

Independence Day

When do we celebrate Independence Day? USCIS #99

.....

National Holidays

Name two national U.S. Holidays. USCIS #100

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Background

- On September 14, 1814, U.S. soldiers at Baltimore's Fort McHenry raised a huge American flag to celebrate a crucial victory over British forces during the War of 1812.
- The sight of those "broad stripes and bright stars" inspired Francis Scott Key to write a song that eventually became the United States national anthem.
- Key's words gave new significance to a national symbol and started a tradition through which generations of Americans have invested the flag with their own meanings and memories.
- In 1812, the U.S. declared war with Great Britain. Annoyed by British interference with American trade, the young nation was intent on confirming its recently won independence.
- Americans were stunned when, on August 24, 1814, British troops marched into Washington, D.C., and set the Capitol building and White House ablaze.
- America's future seemed more uncertain than ever as the British set their sights on Baltimore, Maryland, a vital seaport on the Atlantic coast. On September 13, 1814, British warships began firing bombs and rockets on Fort McHenry, which protected the city's harbor. The bombardment continued for twenty-five hours while the nation awaited news of Baltimore's fate.
- By the "dawn's early light" of September 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key, who was aboard a ship several miles distant, could just make out an American flag waving above Fort McHenry. British ships were withdrawing from Baltimore, and Key realized that the United States had survived the battle and stopped the enemy advance. Moved by the sight, he wrote a song celebrating "that star-spangled banner" as a symbol of America's triumph and endurance.
- During the 19th century, "The Star-Spangled Banner" became one of the nation's best-loved patriotic songs. It gained special significance during the Civil War, a time when many Americans turned to music to express their feelings for the flag and the ideals and values it represented.
- By the 1890s, the military had adopted the song for ceremonial purposes, requiring it to be played at the raising and lowering of the colors.
- Despite its widespread popularity, "The Star-Spangled Banner" did not become the national anthem until 1931.



This flag flew over Fort McHenry on September 13, 1815. It is called the "Star-Spangled Banner." This flag inspired the national anthem.



The National Anthem- Word Matching

Name: _____ Teacher: _____

Directions: Matching. The words on the left side of the page are from the Star Spangled Banner. Definitions for these words are found on the right side of the page. Write the correct letter from the definitions next to their word.

- | _____ | Word |
|-------|--------------|
| _____ | 1. Dawn |
| _____ | 2. Proudly |
| _____ | 3. Hailed |
| _____ | 4. Twilight |
| _____ | 5. Gleaming |
| _____ | 6. Perilous |
| _____ | 7. Ramparts |
| _____ | 8. Gallantly |
| _____ | 9. Streaming |
| _____ | 10. Rockets |
| _____ | 11. Proof |

- | Definition |
|-------------------------------------|
| A. cheered |
| B. dangerous |
| C. piles of earth around a fort |
| D. beginning of the day |
| E. bravely |
| F. bombs |
| G. the time between sunset and dark |
| H. evidence |
| I. shining |
| J. constantly moving |
| K. feeling good about something |

Listen to the song. Fill in the missing words from the word bank.

The Star-Spangled Banner

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,

What so _____ we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,

Whose broad _____ and bright _____ through the perilous fight

O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?

And the rocket's _____ glare, the _____ bursting in air,

Gave proof through the _____ that our _____ was still there,

O _____ does that star-_____ banner yet wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Finish This Sentence—Symbols & Holidays

Finish each sentence with information you learned in this video.
Discuss your answers with your class.

1. The _____ is in New York Harbor.
2. _____ and _____ are two national U.S. holidays.
3. The flag has 13 _____ because there were 13 original colonies.
4. _____ is the name of the national anthem.
5. We celebrate _____ on July 4.
6. The flag has 50 _____ because there are 50 states.
7. We show loyalty to the United States when we say the _____.

In this video, you heard about two important American symbols, the Statue of Liberty and the U.S. flag. What are some other symbols of the United States? What are some symbols of the state or city where you live now? Write down your ideas and discuss them with the class.

E More American Symbols

1.



The delegates of the thirteen American colonies planned the Declaration of Independence, and Thomas Jefferson wrote it. The document declared the independence (separation) of the colonies from England.

2.



Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, and the delegates signed the document on July 4, 1776. The Liberty Bell in the State House in Philadelphia rang out on that day.

3.



The French gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States as a symbol of friendship. Now it is a symbol of freedom for new immigrants to this country.

4.



The American eagle is the official emblem (symbol) of the United States. It appears on the Presidential flag and on some coins.

5.



The donkey and the elephant first appeared in political cartoons. They are symbols for the Democratic and Republican Parties.

6.



Uncle Sam has the initials U.S. He originally appeared in political cartoons and is an unofficial symbol of the U.S. government.

F Match the sentence parts. Write the letters on the lines.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <u> C </u> The Liberty Bell is the symbol of | a. the United States on the Presidential flag and some coins. |
| 2. <u> </u> The Statue of Liberty is the symbol of | b. the U.S. government. |
| 3. <u> </u> The American eagle is the symbol of | c. the Declaration of Independence. |
| 4. <u> </u> The donkey and the elephant are symbols of | d. the two major political parties. |
| 5. <u> </u> Uncle Sam is the symbol of | e. freedom for immigrants to the United States. |