

Teacher Guide: **SYMBOLS & HOLIDAYS**

In order of appearance in **Preparing for the Oath**, the Civics Test items covered in this theme are:

96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?
- because there were 13 original colonies
 - because the stripes represent the original colonies
97. Why does the flag have 50 stars?
- because there is one star for each state
 - because each star represents a state
 - because there are 50 states
98. What is the name of the national anthem?
- The Star-Spangled Banner
52. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?
- the United States
 - the flag
95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?
- New York (Harbor)
 - Liberty Island
- [Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City, and on the Hudson (River).]
99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?
- July 4
100. Name two national U.S. holidays.
- New Year's Day
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 - Presidents' Day
 - Memorial Day
 - Independence Day
 - Labor Day
 - Columbus Day
 - Veterans Day
 - Thanksgiving
 - Christmas

Overview

This Teacher Guide will take you through the Civics Test questions covered in the theme, **Symbols & Holidays**. The instructional steps provided here target ESL students at the high beginning level. Watch the video on the Help screen and take some time to familiarize yourself with the elements and navigation of **Preparing for the Oath** so that you are comfortable presenting it to your class.

Introduction

To start the lesson, open the theme and present the Introduction Screen. Read the introductory paragraph aloud and discuss it with the students.

The **symbols** and holidays of the United States can teach us many things. If we look at U.S. national holidays and national **symbols**, we can find stories about the United States, its history, and its people.

Explore the Questions

These steps will help you guide your class through the theme, using an LCD projector:

1. Distribute the handout **Key Vocabulary—Symbols & Holidays** and review the definitions with the students.
2. Click on the Start button to begin the first video, **American Flag: Stripes**.
3. Play the video for the class with the captions on or off.
4. Pause the video where appropriate to discuss the vocabulary and images with the class.
5. Play the video again without pausing.
6. If there is a Practice activity available for this question, click on the “Practice” tab.
7. View and discuss the Practice activity.
8. Click on the “Try” tab.
9. Listen to the Civics Test item and have the students select the answer. Click on the “hear question” button to listen to the item repeatedly. After choosing the correct option, students can hear the answer aloud while they read along at the bottom of the screen.
10. Go through the rest of the videos in this theme, using the steps above.
11. Once the class has gone through all of the videos in this theme, wrap up this lesson with the handout, **Finish This Sentence—Symbols & Holidays** or assign it to the students for homework.

Key Vocabulary—Symbols & Holidays

anthem: an official song of a group of people or nation

battle: a fight during a war

celebrate: to do something special because of a certain day or event

colonists: people who lived in one of the original 13 British colonies before the United States became independent in 1776

colony: a country or geographic area controlled by another country

commemorate: to remember someone or something by a special action, ceremony, or object

equality: a situation where everyone has the same rights

expand: to grow or become larger

explode: to blow up or make a loud noise

fireworks: explosions that produce colorful lights in the sky

honor: to publicly show that someone is respected

independent/independence: free; not controlled by another person or country

justice: a judge on the U.S. Supreme Court; fairness under the law

liberty: freedom

loyal/loyalty: demonstrating support for the same government or set of beliefs

military: the armed forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard)

parades: public celebrations with bands and decorated vehicles moving down the street

picnics: meals people eat in an outdoor area

promise: to say you will definitely do something

represent: to make decisions for another person or group of people

representatives: elected members of a government group in the United States, such as in Congress

separate: to keep something or someone apart

serve: to work for a certain period of time, usually in political office or in the military

sign: to write your name on a document to show that you approve

statue: an object that looks like a person or animal, and is made of stone, metal, or other material

symbol: something that is used to represent an idea or organization

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.



Visit <http://americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship/index.html?theme=15> to go directly to the *Symbols & Holidays* theme.