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.

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