

What America Means To Me

Students learn that patriotism means different things to different people.

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Grade Level	2
Duration	2 class periods

National Geography Standards

ELEMENT FOUR: HUMAN SYSTEMS

10. The characteristics, distribution and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics.
11. The patterns and networks of economic interdependence.

Arizona Geography Strand

Concept 4 Human Systems

PO 4. Describe elements of culture (e.g., food, clothing, housing, sports, customs, beliefs) in a community of areas studied.

Other Arizona Standards

Strand 3 Civics/Government

Concept 1: Foundations of Government

PO 1. Describe the history and meaning of national symbols, documents, songs, and monuments that represent American democracy and values:

- American flag
- Pledge of Allegiance
- National Anthem
- America the Beautiful
- the Capitol
- Liberty Bell

ELA Common Core Standards

Writing

Production and Distribution of Writing

AZ.2.W.4 With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose. With guidance and support from adults, produce functional writing (e.g., friendly letters, recipes experiments, notes/messages, labels, graphs/tables, directions, posters) in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose.

Overview

What is patriotism? Is it something that can be written or crafted?

Purpose

In this lesson students will review National Symbols and reflect on the different ways to show patriotism.

Materials

- National Symbols Worksheet and Answer Key

- [The Impossible Patriotism Project](#) by Linda Skeers
- Bingo Cards-blank and with images
- Scissors
- Glue
- Projection device

Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Identify and describe American symbols
- Write a letter to a U.S. soldier describing their community and thanking them for their service to the U.S.

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Procedures

Session One

1. Begin the lesson by asking students, "What is patriotism?" Use think, pair, and share.
2. Read The Impossible Patriotism Project to students. Project the hand-drawn images from the National Symbols worksheet. Then re-read the book. Review the book illustrations one more time, and give students a chance to identify the U.S. symbols in the hand-drawn images.
3. Distribute the National Symbols worksheet, scissors, and glue. Allow time for students to glue the symbol to its description.

Session Two

4. Brainstorm some of the people who are heroic and help America. (firefighters, Red Cross, police, people in the armed forces) Discuss how these people are patriotic. Then discuss how people in the armed forces are especially patriotic. (away from home, often in dangerous places, can be hurt or killed, protecting our freedoms and territory, making sure America is safe, etc.) Then have students write a friendly letter to a soldier thanking them for their service and describing what it is like in Arizona.

5. As student finish their writing assignment, play Symbol Bingo to reinforce American symbols. To win at Symbol Bingo, students must cover one row. This game can be played throughout the year.

Assessment

Students will score 80% or higher on the National Symbols Worksheet for civics.

Students will receive a 4 or higher on the 6 Points Writing Rubric in the area of Organization and Ideas/Content for their letter. They need to mention two or more geographical/community facts in their letters for civics/geography mastery.

Extensions

Have students design their own national symbol to celebrate patriotism.

Sources

Skeers, Linda. The Impossible Patriotism Project. New York: Dial Books, 2007.

All artwork is done by Nicolas Jenkins.