

## Why is the U.S. flag important and how is it celebrated?

<b>Content</b>	<p>This instructional task engages students in content related to the following grade-level expectations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K.2.2: Identify symbols of local, state, and national importance using various sources</li> <li>• K.2.3: Identify local, state, and national celebrations, holidays, and events using various sources</li> </ul>
<b>Claims</b>	<p>In this instructional task, students develop and express claims through discussions and writing in which they identify and provide examples of American symbols, with an emphasis on the American Flag and the connection to Flag Day. Students engage with the sources to build their understanding of the content to explain how society, the environment, the political and economic landscape, and historical events influence perspectives, values, traditions, and ideas by corroborating sources and evaluating evidence.</p>
<b>Unit Connection</b>	<p>This instructional task helps students explore and develop claims around the content from unit 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are some important local, state, and national symbols? (K.2.2)</li> <li>• What are some celebrations, holidays, and events and why are they important? (K.2.3)</li> </ul>

Supporting Question 1
What is a symbol and how can I use them?
Formative Performance Task
Students will give examples of how symbols are used and name some symbols of the U.S.
Featured Source
<b>Source A:</b> <a href="#">"U.S. Symbols,"</a> Brainpop Jr.

Supporting Question 2
What does the U.S. flag represent?
Formative Performance Task
Students will describe the design of the U.S. flag and its meaning.
Featured Source
<b>Source B:</b> <i>A is for America</i> , Devin Scillian

Supporting Question 3
How and why do we celebrate the U.S. flag and Flag Day?
Formative Performance Task
Students will explain how the U.S. flag is celebrated on national holidays.
Featured Source
<b>Source C:</b> <a href="#">American Flag Video</a> , YouTube
<b>Source D:</b> <a href="#">"Celebrate Flag Day,"</a> ReadWorks.org

<b>Summative Performance Task</b>	<p>Students work in groups to design an informational poster advertising a classroom celebration of the American flag. Poster must include a picture of the flag, the meaning of the flag, and describe the relationship between the flag and the celebration through words and illustrations. Students will orally present their posters to the class.</p>
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## Formative Performance Task 1

<b>Supporting Question</b>	What is a symbol and how can I use them?
<b>Formative Performance Task</b>	Students will give examples of how symbols are used and name some symbols of the U.S.
<b>Featured Source</b>	<b>Source A:</b> " <a href="#">U.S. Symbols</a> ," Brainpop Jr.
<b>Content and Claims</b>	This formative performance task requires students to identify what a symbols is, and be able to recall some symbols that represent the United States. (K.2.2)

### Featured Source

**Source A:** "[U.S. Symbols](#)," Brainpop Jr.

### Steps

1. Access prior knowledge of symbols through discussion. Have students explain how they know what certain pictures mean.
2. Watch the video in source A. Stop at regular intervals to assess the students' understanding. Possible guiding questions include:
  - What is a symbol?
  - What is an example of an American symbol?
  - What does it represent?
  - Why do we have Flag Day?
3. Have students work individually, in pairs, or in groups to draw a symbol of the United States. They should express their understanding of the symbol and what it means through illustrations, writing, or both. Provide a sentence frame as needed. Suggested frame includes "\_\_\_\_\_ is a symbol of the United States."

### Student Look-Fors

1. Students should be able to identify that a symbol is pictorial representation of something else.
2. Symbols that related to the United States as shown in the video include: American flag, bald eagle, liberty bell, Statue of Liberty, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, White House, Capital Building, U.S. Supreme Courthouse, Star Spangled Banner, and apple pie.
3. Student responses should include: The U.S. flag is a symbol of our country. It means we are free. We have Flag Day to celebrate all that the flag represents and the freedoms we enjoy as Americans.

## Formative Performance Task 2

<b>Supporting Question</b>	What does the U.S. flag represent?
<b>Formative Performance Task</b>	Students will describe the design of the U.S. flag and its meaning.
<b>Featured Source</b>	<b>Source B:</b> <i>A is for America</i> , Devin Scillian ( <a href="#">ELA Guidebook Unit, Kindergarten</a> )
<b>Content and Claims</b>	In this formative performance task, students explore a national symbol, the flag, in order to describe the physical and patriotic symbolism. (K.2.2)

### Featured Source

**Source B:** *A is for America*, Devin Scillian

### Steps

1. Show the American flag and allow them time to observe the flag (3-5 minutes).
2. Have students describe the flag. Chart student responses on chart paper.
  - Suggested frame : “I noticed the flag has / is . . .”
3. Engage students in a discussion. Suggested frames include:
  - “I wonder why the flag . . .
  - “I wonder when the flag . . .
  - “I wonder if the flag . . .
4. Read *A is for America* aloud to the class.
5. Lead students in a discussion on facts pertaining to the American flag that are listed in the book. Ensure that the students discuss and understand the following:
  - Our flag is red, white, and blue to show that we are a free country.
  - We celebrate the flag to celebrate our country.
6. Create a class list of student responses, using shared or interactive writing.
  - “Let’s look at the chart of things we noticed about the flag.” Student responses should include facts about the flag discussed in the book.

### Student Look-Fors

1. Students’ responses should include, but are not limited to:
  - 50 stars represent the 50 states
  - 13 red and white stripes for the 13 original colonies
  - Colors represent: red (valor), white (purity), and blue (justice)

## Formative Performance Task 3

<b>Supporting Question</b>	How and why do we celebrate the U.S. flag and Flag Day?
<b>Formative Performance Task</b>	Students will explain how the U.S. flag is celebrated on national holidays.
<b>Featured Source</b>	<p><b>Source C:</b> <a href="#">American Flag Video</a>, YouTube</p> <p><b>Source D:</b> "<a href="#">Celebrate Flag Day</a>," ReadWorks.org</p>
<b>Content and Claims</b>	This formative performance task requires students to explain how and why the US flag is celebrated (K.2.3)

### Featured Source

**Source C:** [American Flag Video](#), YouTube

**Source D:** "[Celebrate Flag Day](#)," ReadWorks.org

### Steps

1. Have students revisit the class list of original responses on the US flag, its description and meaning. Compare to see if responses were accurate or if they need to be modified.
2. Play video for students, multiple times if needed. Stop to engage students in a discussion on facts, people, and previously learned material through the video.
3. Make a class list on facts about Flag Day learned from the video through a shared or interactive writing.
4. Engage the students in a read aloud using the text, "Celebrate Flag Day." Read the text more than once, if necessary, so students gain a full understanding of content. Pause and stop to ask questions to check for understanding.
5. As a class, answer questions 1-4 using the text to confirm answers. Conduct a shared or interactive writing to answer question 5.
6. Allow students to individually complete question 6. Provide sentence frame as needed, such as "From the story, I learned \_\_\_\_\_." When students have completed the sentence and illustration, allow time for them to orally read the sentence and show the illustration to the class.
7. Ensure that the students discuss and understand the following: Flag Day is June 14<sup>th</sup>. We celebrate Flag Day because we are free. The flag is a symbol of freedom.

### Student Look-Fors

1. Students can identify facts about Flag Day such as:
  - Celebrated on June 14<sup>th</sup> to honor the American flag
  - People put flags on houses, in parades, schools, and buildings.
2. Students can connect Flag Day or the American flag to their personal lives.

## Summative Performance Task

<b>Essential Question</b>	Why is the U.S. flag important and how is it celebrated?
<b>Summative Performance Task</b>	Using the sources and your knowledge of national flag, create an informational poster to show our celebration of the American flag. Poster must include a picture of the flag, the meaning of the flag, and describe the relationship between the flag and the celebration through words and illustrations. Students will orally present their posters to the class.

### Teacher Overview

In this summative performance task, students are asked to write and illustrate a response to a prompt using evidence from the sources they explored throughout the three formative performance tasks.

Throughout this instructional task, students have explored what symbols are, and some that are used to represent our country. Students studied in depth the design of the American flag, and the symbolic meaning behind the colors. They connected the design of the flag to a national holiday, Flag Day celebrated on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Having gone through the previous tasks, the students have engaged with material about the flag, and presented their ideas to the class, increasing their content knowledge and speaking skills.

### Student Prompt

Create a poster that shows the American flag and how it is celebrated. Make sure your poster includes a picture of the flag and what it means. Also, include a picture of the celebration. You may write labels for your pictures, or you may write sentences telling about your illustrations. Use lots of color and neat handwriting. Make sure your picture of the flag is accurate, including the correct colors.

### Student Look-Fors

1. Scoring notes:
  - a. Student response should reflect how to register to vote, the responsibility of voting as a US Citizen, and making an informed vote.
  - b. An exemplar response may include but is not limited to:
    - Flag Day is June 14<sup>th</sup>. We celebrate Flag Day because we are free. The flag is a symbol of freedom. The U.S. flag is a symbol of our country. We have Flag Day to celebrate all that the flag represents and the freedoms that we enjoy as Americans.
    - Our flag is red, white, and blue. We celebrate the flag to celebrate our freedom. There are 13 stripes to represent the 13 original colonies. Illustration includes U.S. flag with 13 alternating red and white stripes.
2. A strong response:
  - a. References documents appropriately
    - Symbols are pictures or objects that represent something else. Many symbols are used to describe our country. (Source A)
    - Components of the U.S. flag are significant (stars for the states, stripes for the original colonies, etc.) (Source B)

- We celebrate the flag to celebrate our country. (Source C and D)
- b. Applies the provided evidence as well as additional information about the American flag
  - Students may discuss their experiences and connections with the flag such as saying the pledge to the flag at school each morning or seeing a flag outside of the post office, a home, or other building.