Grade K Louisiana Social Studies

Being Part of a Community

Safety rules

Saying the Pledge of Allegiance

Brown pelicans

Volunteers in the community

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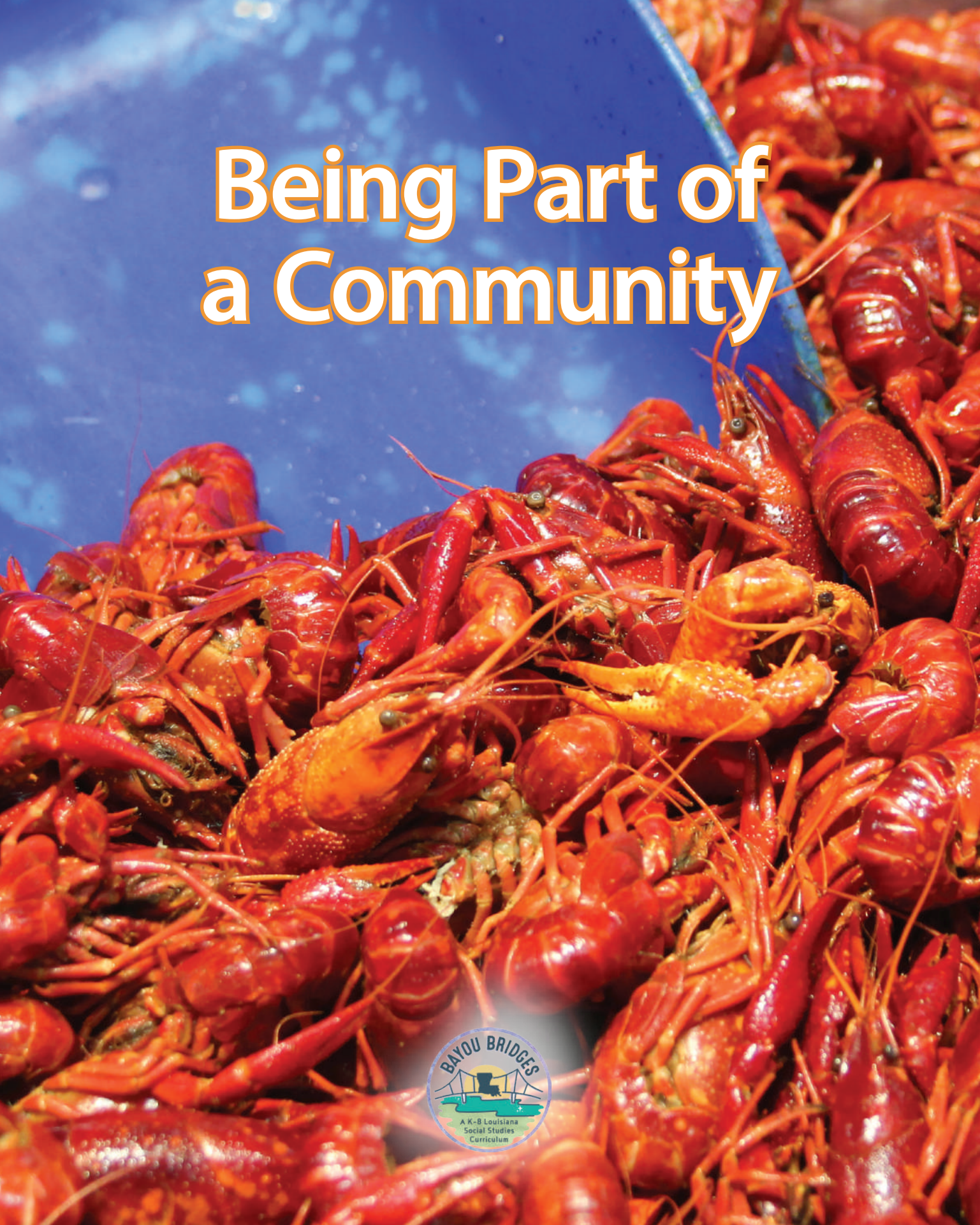

BAYOU BRIDGES
A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum

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Being Part of a Community

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CHAPTER
1

Rules and Laws

Think about how you act in your community. How do you know what to do? How do you know what you shouldn't do? Rules help us know how to act in our community. They tell us what we can and can't do.

We have rules for many reasons. One reason is safety. Rules can stop us from getting hurt. For example, only one person on the slide at a time keeps students safe on the playground.

What other playground rules can you think of?

Adults follow safety rules or laws, too. When people are driving cars, they must stop at red traffic lights to keep everyone safe.

Another reason for rules is to make sure things are fair. When we play games, rules make sure everyone has a fair chance.

There are rules in sports, too.

Following the rules means that everyone can enjoy the sport and stay safe.

Rules also give people freedom. There are rules in the United States that allow you to think for yourself and tell people your own ideas.

People in the United States are also free to practice any religion they want. The country has rules that stop others from taking away these important freedoms.

These are some rules to follow every day:

1. Take turns and share. Everyone has a chance to join in when we take turns.
2. Be respectful. We can use kind words—even when we lose or disagree! It's also important to respect other people's things.
3. Be responsible. There are many ways to be responsible. One way to be responsible is by doing your chores or classroom jobs. Another way is by taking care of your belongings.

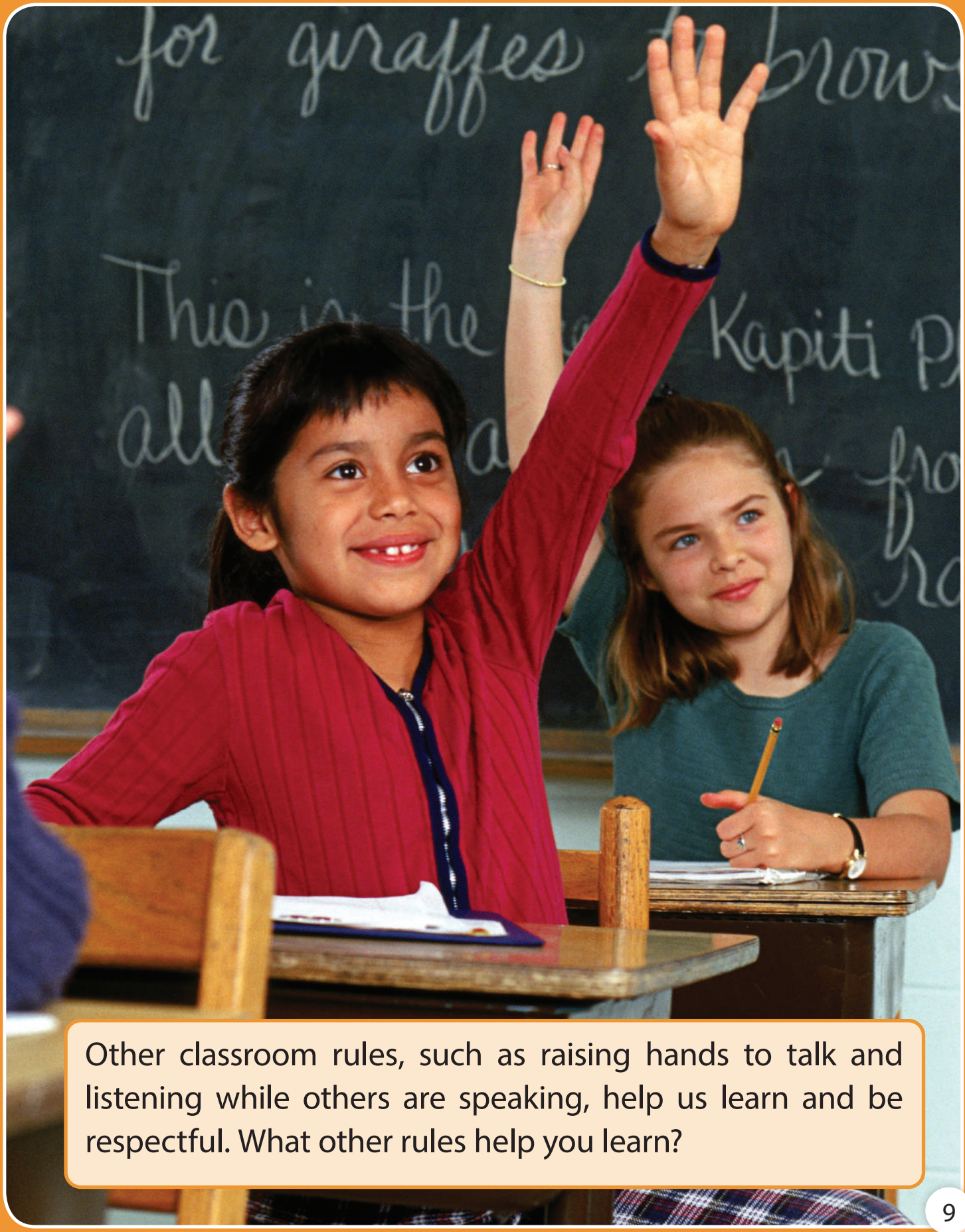
4. Be honest. Telling the truth is important. It is one of many ways that we build trust in our community.

CHAPTER
2

Making Rules

Different people make rules for different parts of the community. Teachers make the rules for their classrooms. They decide what rules will keep the classroom safe and fair.

These students are lining up and keeping their hands to themselves. These rules will keep everyone safe. What rules keep you safe at school?



Other classroom rules, such as raising hands to talk and listening while others are speaking, help us learn and be respectful. What other rules help you learn?

Adults we live with make the rules at home. You may have a rule at home about cleaning up your toys. This helps toys last longer and also leaves space for the other people in the house. This shows respect to people and belongings.

Adults in the community help us follow rules and solve problems. At school, the principal is the leader of the whole school. They help teachers do their jobs. They make rules for students and teachers to follow.

School custodians have an important job. They take care of the school building. One of the custodian's jobs is to make sure the school is clean. A clean school keeps us safe and healthy.

Fire and rescue workers are other important adults in our community. They help people during emergencies. They keep our community safe if there are fires, storms, or accidents.

People in the community can also work together to solve problems. If a playground or a community building is damaged, volunteers might work together to fix it.

Communities also have laws. These are rules that everyone has to follow. Local governments make laws for people in your parish and in your town or city. Can you think of any examples of local laws that you follow?

Being part of a community means following its laws. If people break the law, police officers help solve the problem.

CHAPTER
3

Local Government

We choose leaders that we trust to represent us in the government. We do this by voting in elections. The leaders we choose do many things. They make laws for our community. They also help solve problems.

There are many different local leaders in Louisiana. One local leader is a parish president. Their job is to lead the parish and make sure people who live there have what they need to be safe and healthy.

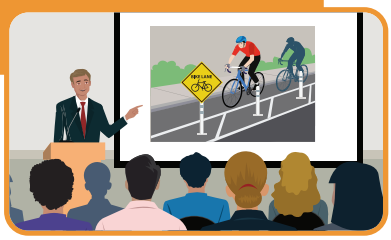
Some towns and cities have a leader called a mayor. The mayor makes suggestions about how to spend the city's money. They also make sure that the city is safe.

A city council is made up of people from different parts of the city. Local leaders listen to the opinions and needs of the people in the community that they represent.

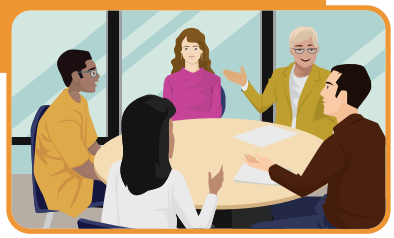
How are new laws made? First, people share their ideas about the things they would like to change in their community. Then, a local leader suggests a new law to make the change. Next, leaders talk about the law. Finally, the leaders vote on the new law. If enough people say yes, the law takes effect.

1. People share ideas.

2. A leader suggests a new law.



3. Leaders talk about the law.



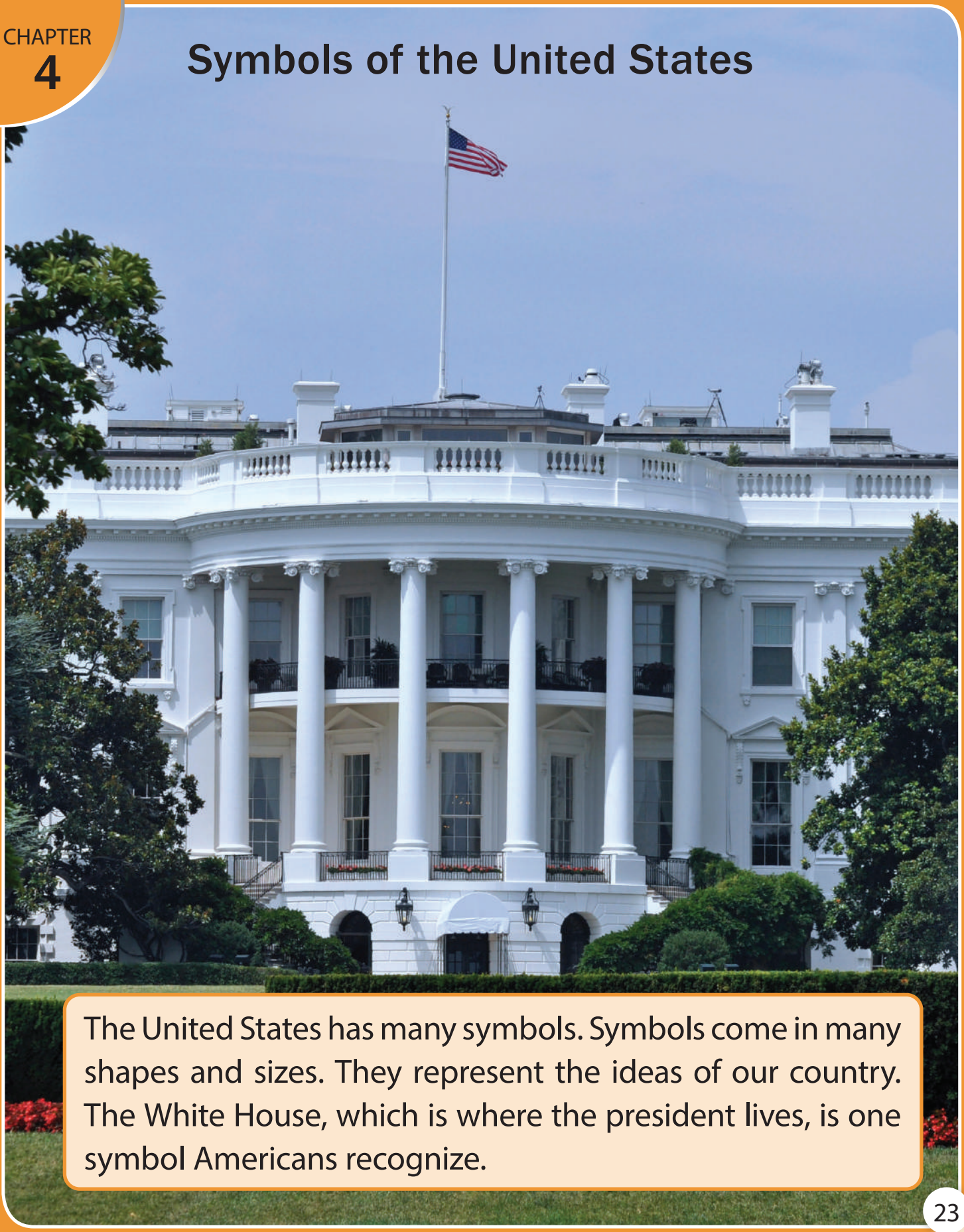
4. Leaders vote on the law.

5. The idea becomes a law.

Local leaders often work in government buildings, like the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge.

CHAPTER
4

Symbols of the United States



The United States has many symbols. Symbols come in many shapes and sizes. They represent the ideas of our country. The White House, which is where the president lives, is one symbol Americans recognize.

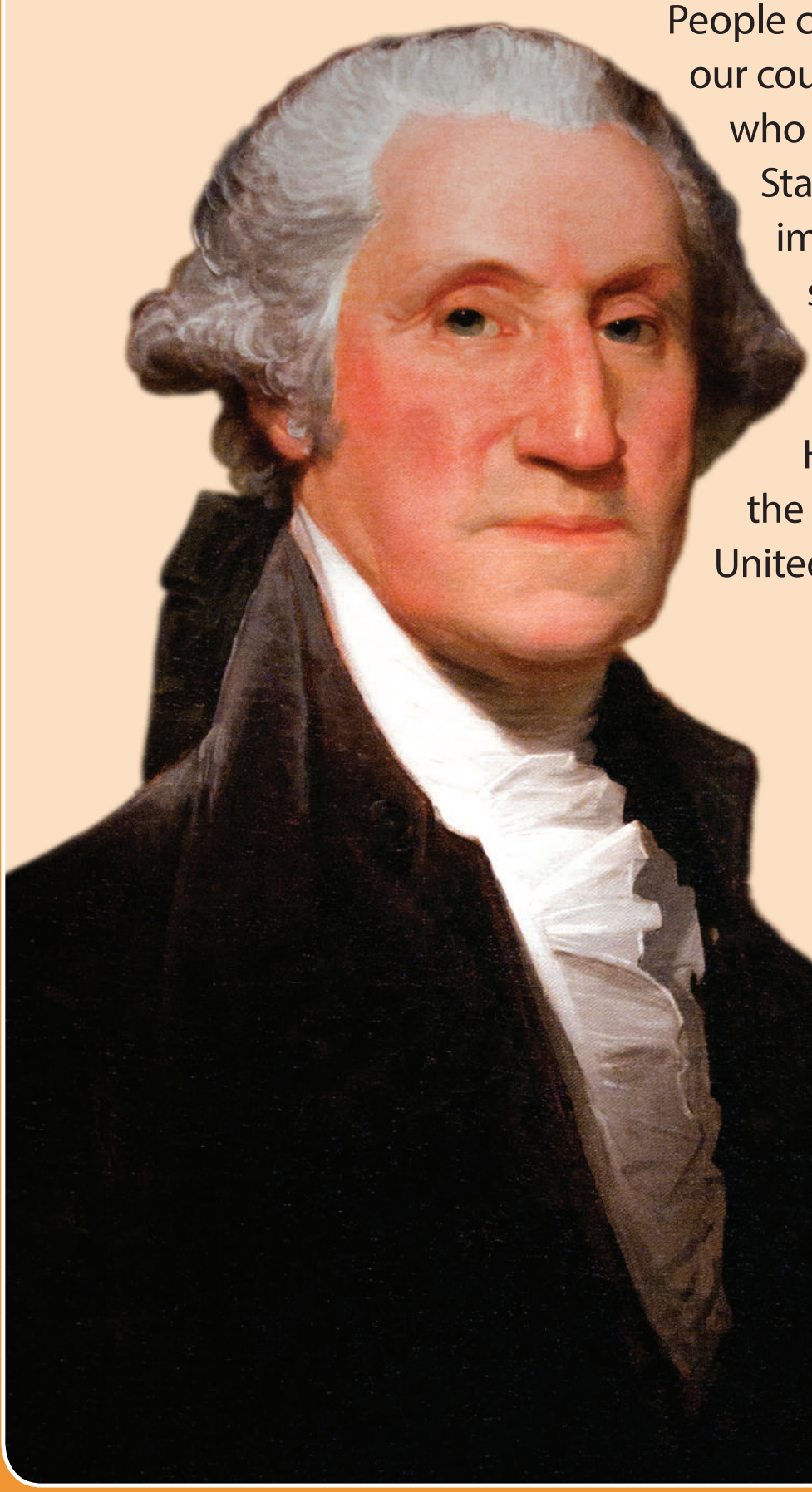
The capital city of the United States is Washington, D.C. There are many important buildings here.

The U.S. Capitol is where Congress meets to make laws for the country. These buildings are symbols of the national government.

The United States stands for many ideas and beliefs. Our national bird is the bald eagle. It represents the strength and freedom of our country.

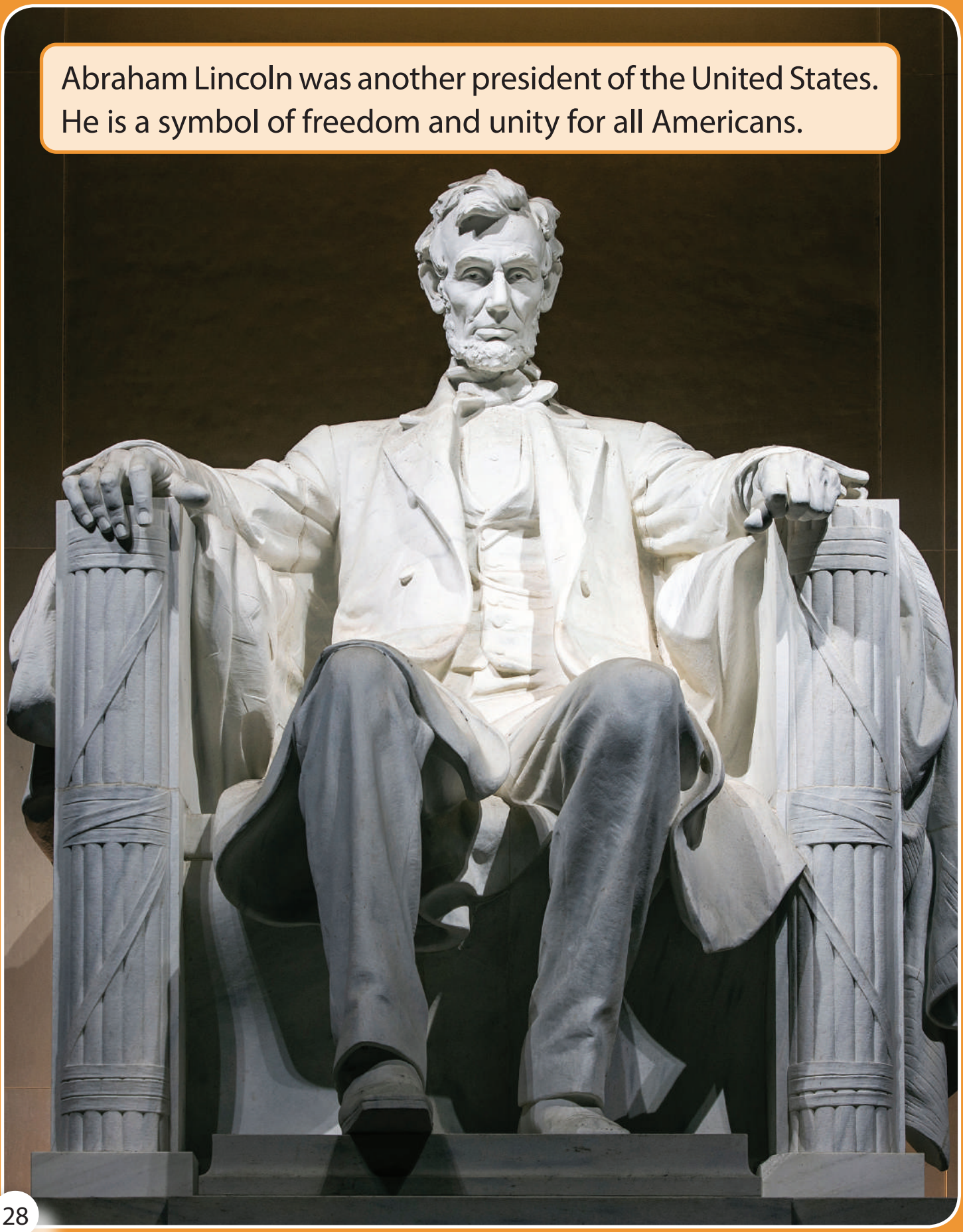
The American flag is another symbol that represents our country. We say the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag as a promise to stay true to our country.

Our national song is called “The Star-Spangled Banner.” It tells the story of how the American flag was flown after an important battle in the past.

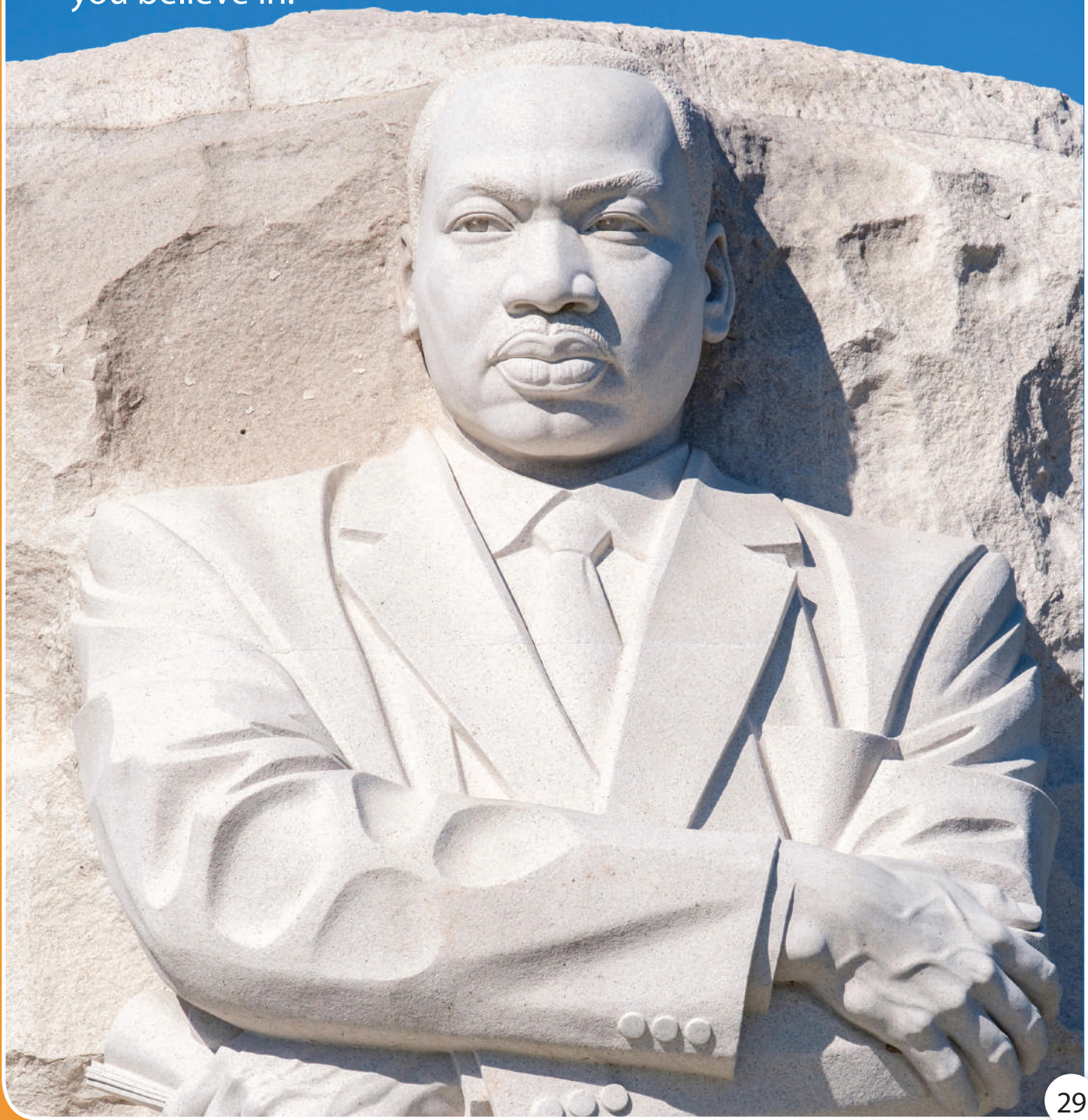


People can be symbols of our country, too. Presidents who led the United States in the past are important American symbols. George Washington was the first president. He is a symbol of the beginning of the United States.

Abraham Lincoln was another president of the United States. He is a symbol of freedom and unity for all Americans.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is another important symbol of our country. He was a leader during a time when African Americans did not have many rights. He is a symbol of equality in the United States. Dr. King is also a symbol of standing up for what you believe in.



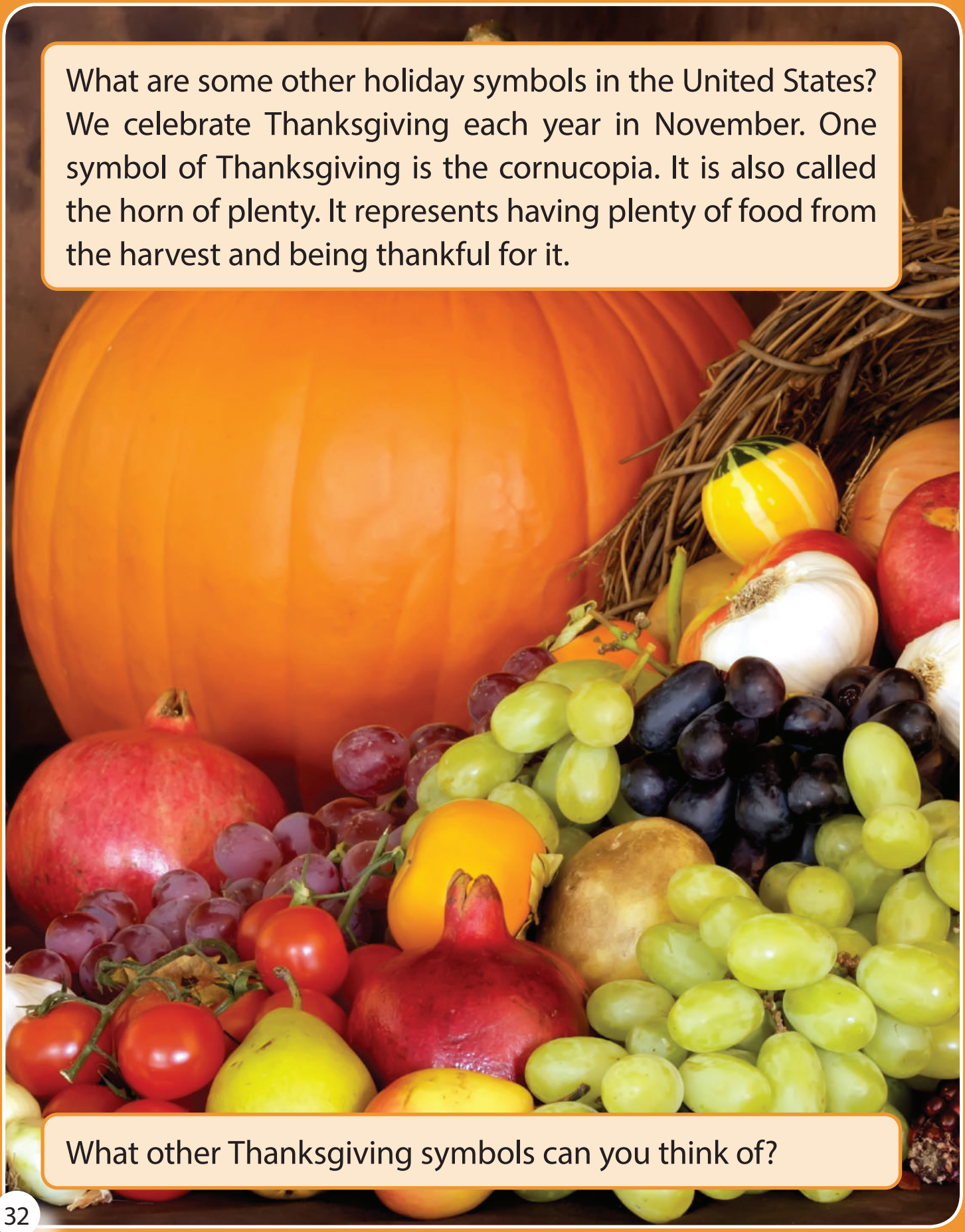
Symbols are often part of the holidays we celebrate. We fly the American flag on Independence Day.

Like the American flag, this holiday represents our country's freedom. What other symbols represent Independence Day?

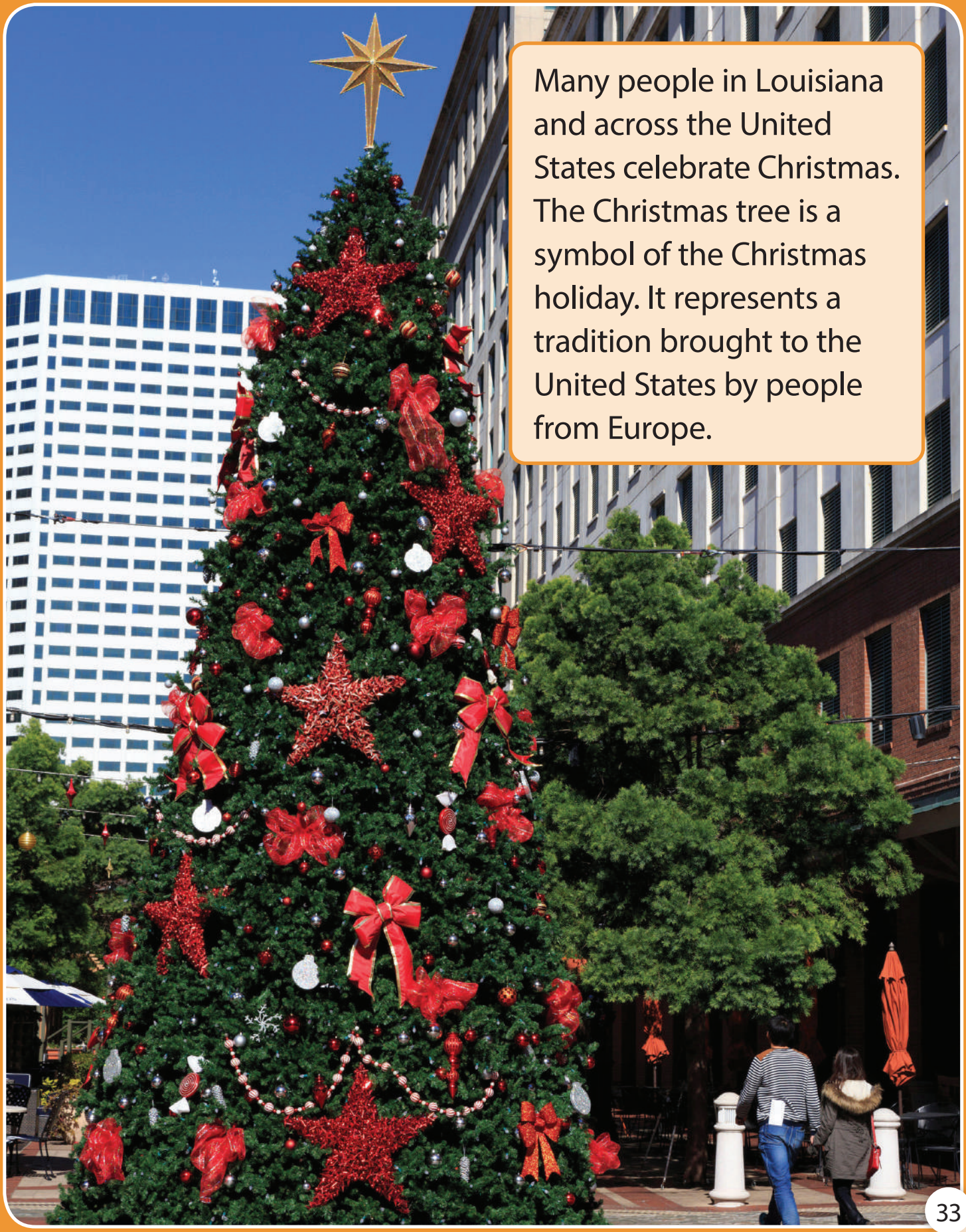
We also fly the American flag on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. The flag helps us remember the people who have fought for our country's freedom.

On Juneteenth, we celebrate the freedom of African Americans in the United States. One symbol of this holiday is the Juneteenth flag. It has the same colors as the American flag. The small star is a symbol of Texas and represents where Juneteenth started. The starburst represents the future of freedom.

What are some other holiday symbols in the United States? We celebrate Thanksgiving each year in November. One symbol of Thanksgiving is the cornucopia. It is also called the horn of plenty. It represents having plenty of food from the harvest and being thankful for it.



What other Thanksgiving symbols can you think of?



Many people in Louisiana and across the United States celebrate Christmas. The Christmas tree is a symbol of the Christmas holiday. It represents a tradition brought to the United States by people from Europe.

Then

Now

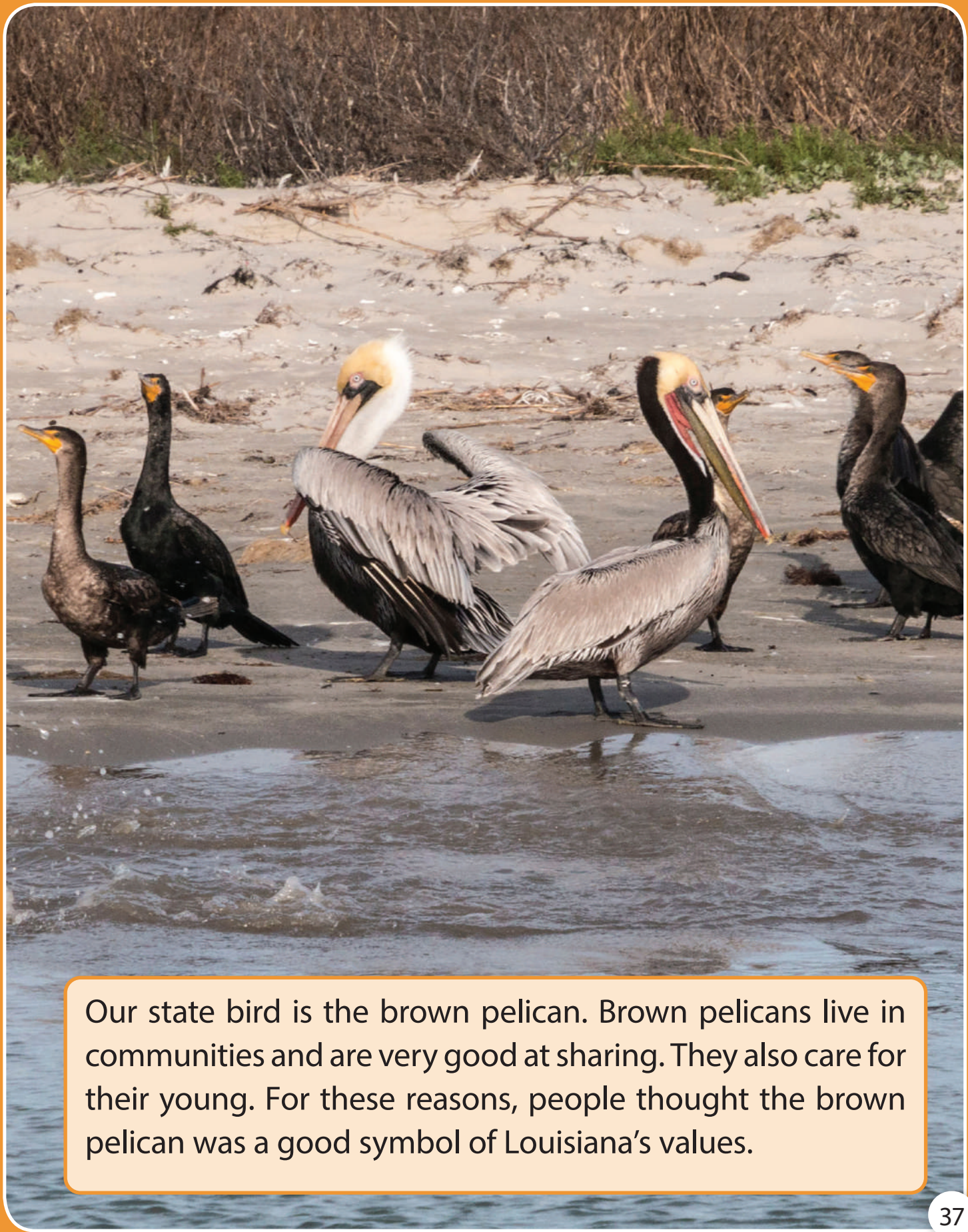
CHAPTER
5

Symbols of Louisiana

Like the United States, Louisiana has many symbols, too! They represent the ideas, animals, and traditions of the state.

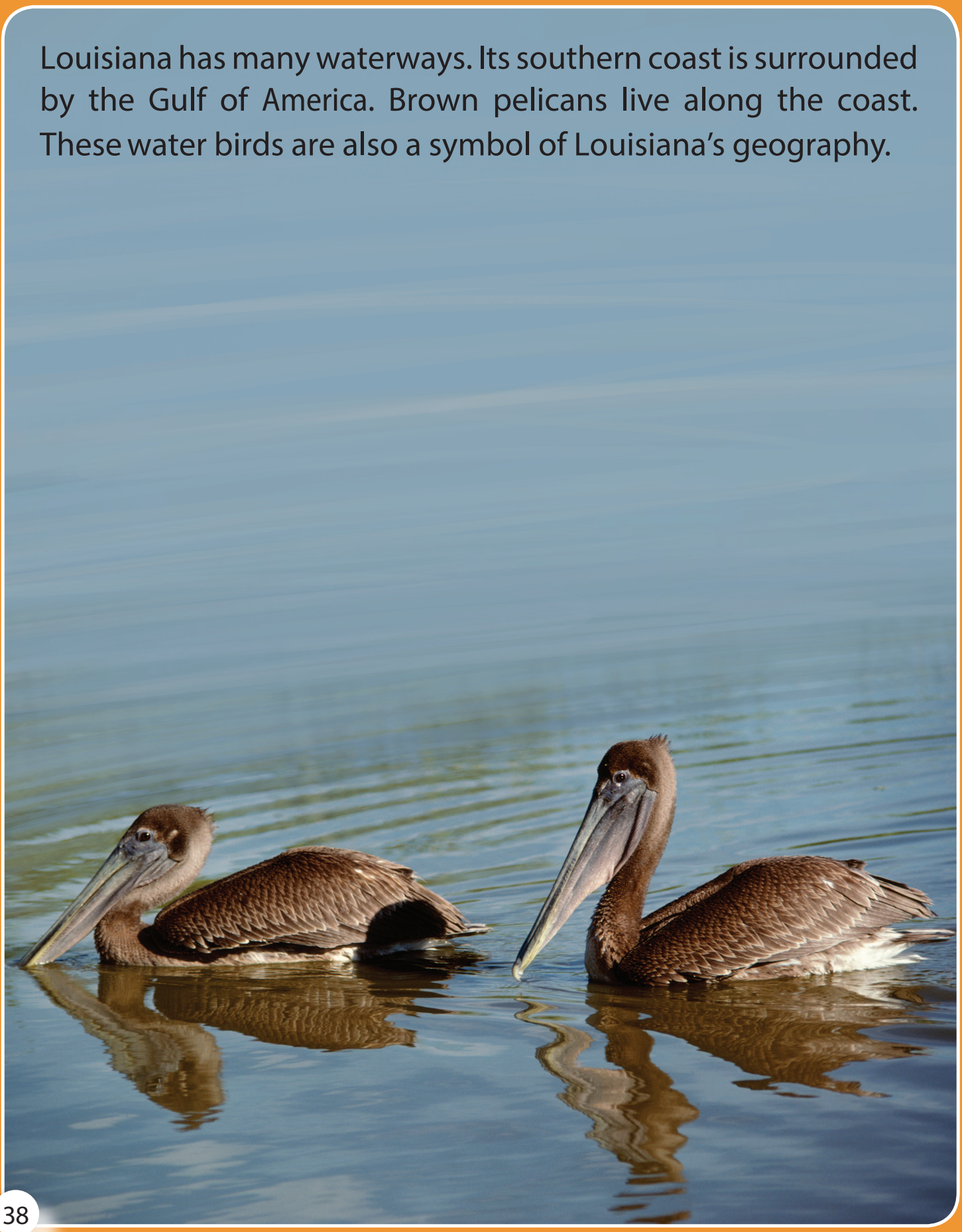
The state flag is a symbol of Louisiana. It has three words that represent the values of Louisiana. It also shows a mother pelican and three young pelicans.

Pelicans are very important to Louisiana. Louisiana is known as the Pelican State!



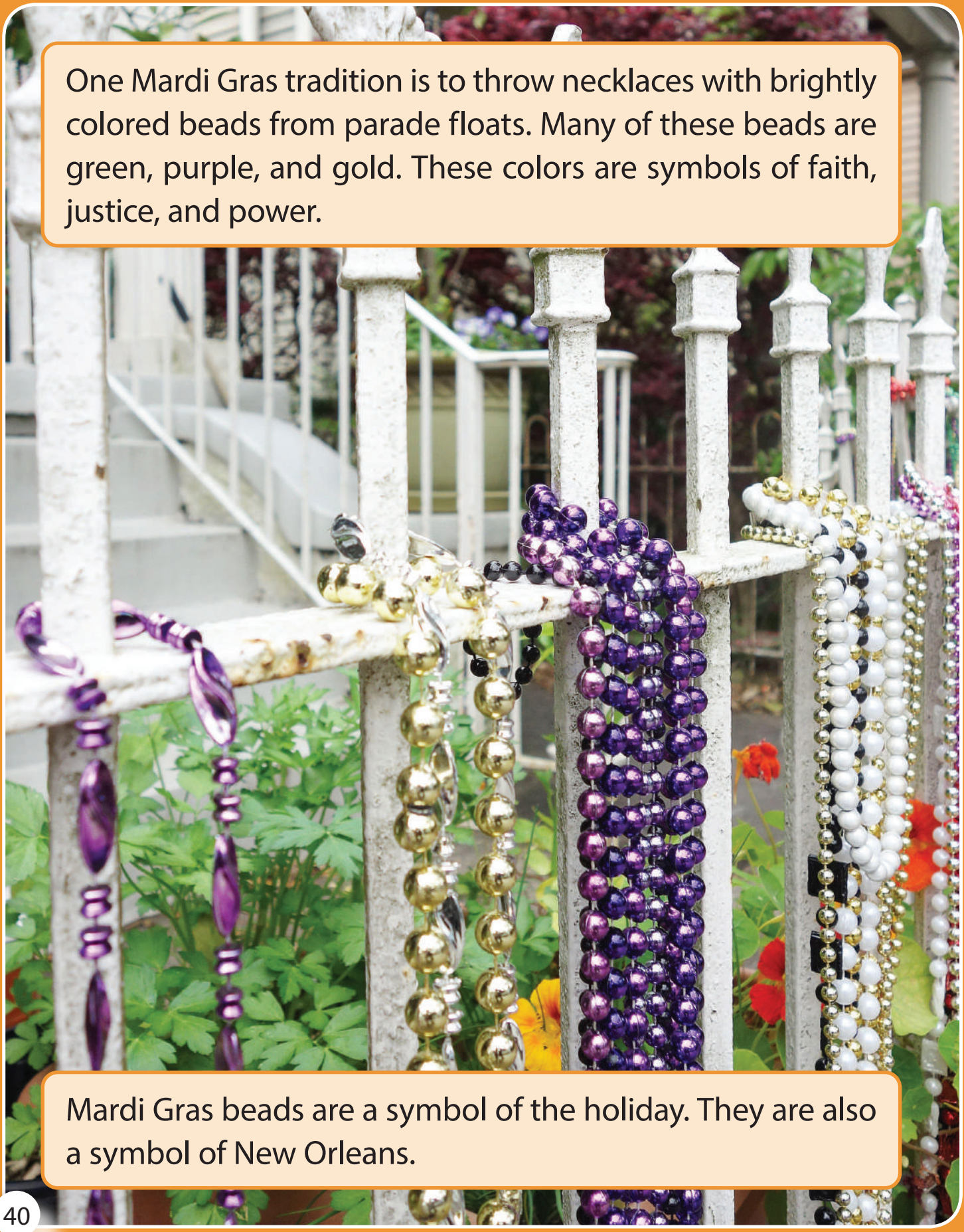
Our state bird is the brown pelican. Brown pelicans live in communities and are very good at sharing. They also care for their young. For these reasons, people thought the brown pelican was a good symbol of Louisiana's values.

Louisiana has many waterways. Its southern coast is surrounded by the Gulf of America. Brown pelicans live along the coast. These water birds are also a symbol of Louisiana's geography.



When people think about New Orleans, they often think about Mardi Gras. Mardi Gras is a state holiday. It is also a symbol of New Orleans and Louisiana.

People celebrate Mardi Gras in many ways. During Mardi Gras, people display or wear beautiful masks. They build large floats that are used in parades.



One Mardi Gras tradition is to throw necklaces with brightly colored beads from parade floats. Many of these beads are green, purple, and gold. These colors are symbols of faith, justice, and power.

Mardi Gras beads are a symbol of the holiday. They are also a symbol of New Orleans.

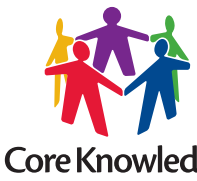
Another Mardi Gras tradition is eating king cake. Like throwing beads, king cake is also a symbol of Mardi Gras and New Orleans.

Jambalaya is a popular dish that represents Louisiana. Gumbo is the state food!

Tamales were brought to Louisiana by people from Mexico. They are a symbol of Louisiana's diverse culture.

Another food that represents Louisiana is étouffée. Étouffée is a stew made with crawfish. It can also be made with shrimp or crab. Louisiana is the crawfish capital of the world.

In addition to its food, Louisiana's culture and traditions also serve as symbols. For example, many people think of jazz when they think of New Orleans. This music is a symbol of the city. Cajun and zydeco music represent the state, too.



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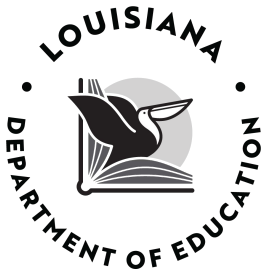

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