# Genre Build Background Access Content Extend Language

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The Eagle, a Symbol of Freedom

by Tiffany Gibson
Question of the Week
Why do we have symbols that represent freedom?

High Frequency Words
love       new
laws       today

Concept Words
symbol     national
freedom    brave
colonies

Learning Goals
• America has symbols.
• The bald eagle is a national symbol.
• The bald eagle stands for freedom.

The Eagle,
A Symbol of Freedom
by Tiffany Gibson
Symbols
Symbols are all around you. Symbols are pictures or signs that mean something. A red sign means stop. A heart means love.

The United States has a flag. A flag is a symbol. The United States has other symbols. The bald eagle is a symbol. It stands for, or means, freedom. Freedom means you can make your own decisions.
Early America

In 1782, there were 13 colonies in America. At first, England made the laws, or rules. The colonies wanted freedom to make their own laws.

Leaders from each colony had a meeting. They made a new country—the United States. The leaders wanted a national symbol. They wanted the symbol to mean freedom.
The leaders wanted an animal for the symbol. They picked the bald eagle.

To Americans, the bald eagle stands for freedom. The bald eagle is the national symbol of the United States.

Develop Language Past Tense Verbs
We add -ed to words to show they happened in the past.

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<tr>
<th>Present Tense</th>
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<th>Past Tense</th>
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<tr>
<td>want</td>
<td>-ed</td>
<td>wanted</td>
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Franklin wanted a turkey for America’s symbol.

A National Turkey?
Benjamin Franklin was a leader in the 13 colonies. He wanted a turkey for the national symbol. He thought turkeys were brave. He thought eagles were lazy.
Talk About It
1. What are two American symbols?
2. Is this sentence a fact or an opinion? Benjamin Franklin thought turkeys were brave.

Write About It
3. Draw a symbol you see in your school. Write a sentence to tell what the symbol means.

Extend Language
Many words have more than one meaning.

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<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Example</th>
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<tr>
<td>heart</td>
<td>shape</td>
<td>I drew a heart on my paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heart</td>
<td>organ in the body</td>
<td>The heart pumps blood in our body.</td>
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Read the underlined word in the sentence. Choose the sentence in which the word has the same meaning as in the original sentence.

4. The sign says no dogs.
   A. A stop sign means stop.
   B. I sign my name on my pictures.

5. My backpack is light. It is easy to carry.
   A. I can’t see. I need a light.
   B. My chair is light. It is easy to move.

Today the bald eagle is still a symbol of freedom. A picture of the bald eagle is on a one-dollar bill.

Where can you see America’s symbol for freedom?