

TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

BENCHMARK

SS.5.CG.2.6 *Explain symbols and documents that represent the United States.*

BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS

- Students will recognize the Great Seal of the United States and the Star-Spangled Banner as symbols that represent the United States.
- Students will recognize the U.S. Constitution (specifically the Bill of Rights) and the Emancipation Proclamation as documents that represent the United States.

WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN

3rd Grade	<p>SS.3.CG.2.4 Recognize symbols, individuals, documents, and events that represent the United States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will recognize Mount Rushmore, Uncle Sam, and the Washington Monument as symbols that represent the United States. ● Students will recognize James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Booker T. Washington, and Susan B. Anthony as individuals who represent the United States. ● Students will recognize the U.S. Constitution as a document that represents the United States. ● Students will recognize the Constitutional Convention (May 1787-September 1787) and the signing of the U.S. Constitution (September 17, 1787) as events that represent the United States.
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WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING

Middle School Civics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SS.7.CG.1.9 ● SS.7.CG.2.3 ● SS.7.CG.2.4 ● SS.8.A.5.3
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TIMING/PACING NOTES

- This benchmark may be taught at any time during the school year.
- Every benchmark clarification does not need to be taught at the same time. They may be broken up and taught over the course of the school year.
- This benchmark may be taught with SS.5.CG.1.4, which addresses the history, meaning, and significance of the Bill of Rights, and SS.5.CG.1.2, which addresses the U.S. Constitution.

UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK

→ What to know:

- ◆ The benchmark cognitive demand is a lower DOK with recognize
- ◆ Recognize can mean: name, list, match, or write
- ◆ U.S. symbols are things that have special meaning to the United States
- ◆ Symbols help students visualize important representations associated with the United States
- ◆ Be careful to avoid historical misconceptions/inaccuracies with overly generic statements such as “The Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves”

→ Main concepts to teach:

- ◆ U.S. symbols
 - The Great Seal and the Star-Spangled Banner
- ◆ Important U.S. documents
 - The Emancipation Proclamation, U.S. Constitution, and Bill of Rights

→ Examples:

- ◆ The Great Seal
 - National symbol of the United States
 - Consists of a bald eagle, an olive branch, 13 arrows, 13 stars and stripes, and the words E Pluribus Unum
 - Found on documents, commissions, treaties, \$1 bill, and passports
 - The Secretary of State is the custodian of the Great Seal
- ◆ The Star-Spangled Banner
 - Written by Francis Scott Key
 - Adopted for military use and ceremonies in 1890
 - Became the National Anthem in 1931
 - Written on September 14, 1814 while Key was being held prisoner by the British in the War of 1812 near the bombing at Fort McHenry
 - Symbolizes national unity, pride, and identity
- ◆ The U.S. Constitution
 - An agreed-upon set of rules or laws
 - Supreme law of the land
 - Starts with “We the People”
 - Sets up a constitutional republic
- ◆ The Bill of Rights
 - First ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution
 - Ratified December 15, 1791
 - Ensures greater protection for individual rights
- ◆ The Emancipation Proclamation
 - January 1, 1863
 - Issued by President Abraham Lincoln
 - Issued during the third year of the Civil War
 - The proclamation declared that “all persons held as slaves are, and henceforward shall be free”
 - The proclamation only applied to the states that had seceded from the Union, exempted portions of the Confederacy that were already back under Northern control, and was dependant on a Union victory
 - Allowed black men to join the Union Army and Navy
 - Changed the character of the war

CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Information on symbols that represent the United States:

1. [The Great Seal Graphic](#)
2. [Museum of American Diplomacy: The Great Seal](#)
3. [Smithsonian: Star-Spangled Banner](#)

Information on documents that represent the United States:

1. [National Archives: Emancipation Proclamation](#)
2. [Britannica: Emancipation Proclamation](#)
3. [Archives: The U.S. Constitution](#)
4. [White House: The Constitution](#)
5. [National Archives: The Bill of Rights](#)
6. [Bill of Rights Institute: The Bill of Rights](#)

Information on laws/statutes regarding the teaching of diverse individuals and groups:

1. [Florida State Statute 1003.42: Required Instruction](#)