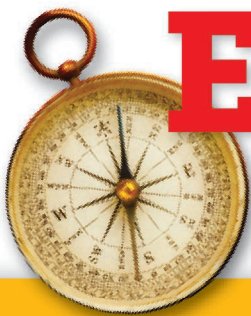


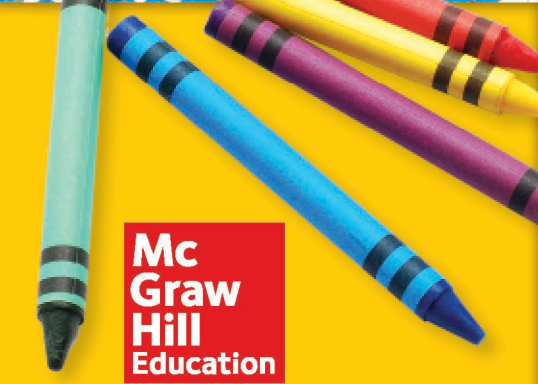
Weekly Explorer

MAGAZINE



IMPACT
CALIFORNIA
SOCIAL STUDIES

Learning
and Working
Now and
Long Ago



**Mc
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Education**



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Chapter 3

Our Country



What does it mean to be an American?

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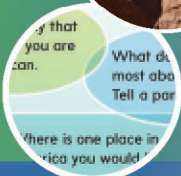
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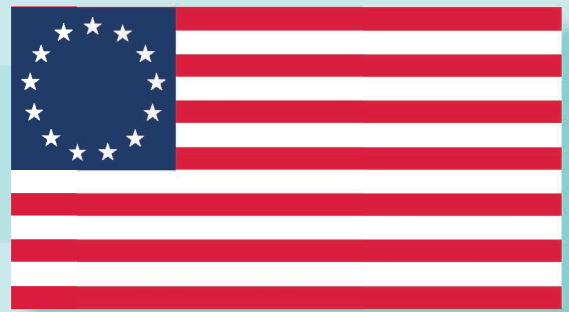
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A Symbol of America

The first American flag was made a long time ago.
Look how it has changed!

This is an early American flag.



Our country has grown!

This is our American flag today.



Why do you think our flag now has 50 stars?



a Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq



Hi! I'm Amana.

My family and I moved to America two years ago.

We are from Kenya, a country in Africa.

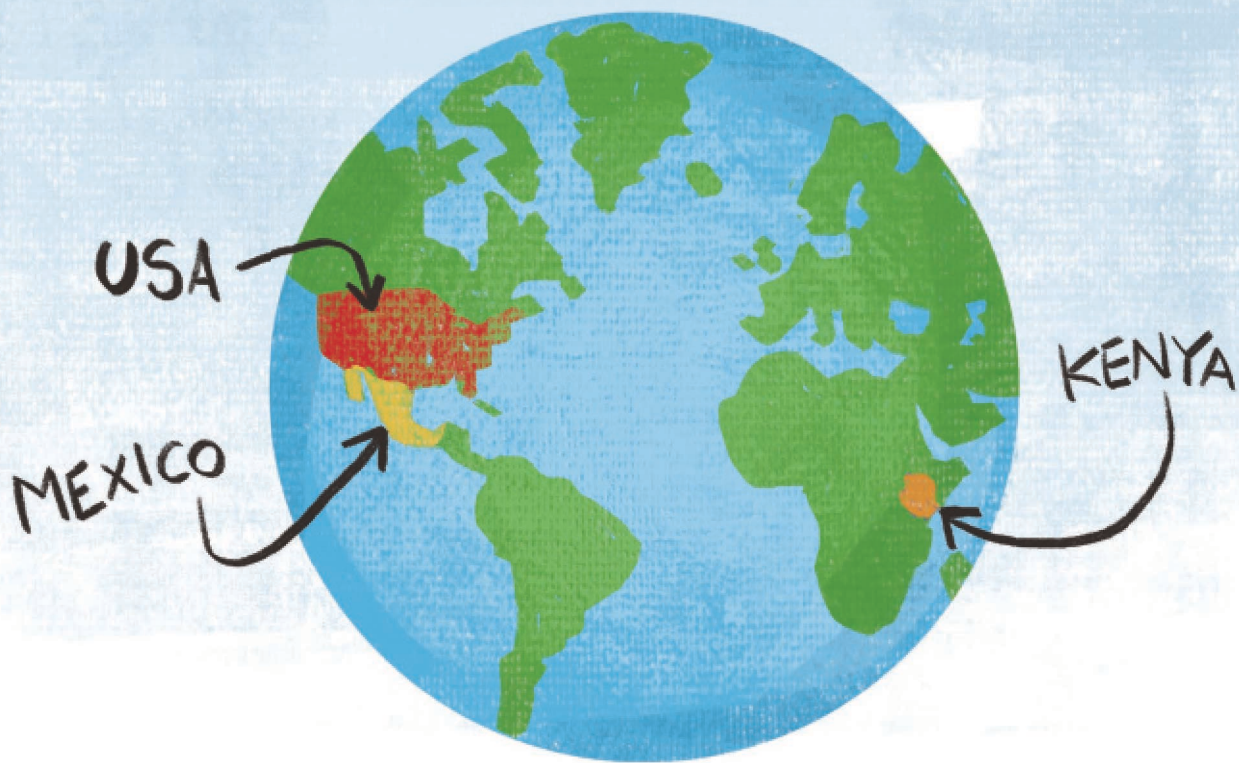
This is the flag of my country!

Hello, my name is Daniel.

I'm from Mexico and we just moved here!

Mexico is south of the United States.

This is the flag of Mexico!



Now we are friends living here, in America!
This is our flag now, too!



Two Ways to Celebrate

In America, many people **celebrate** the new year on New Year's Eve, December 31st.



Families often have parties.
People stay up late.
When it's midnight, the old year is over.
A new year has started!
Everyone wishes each other a happy new year.



WordBlast

What are some special events you **celebrate**?

Many people in America celebrate the Chinese New Year.

Family members give each other gifts to bring good luck.



Wearing red clothes brings good luck, too!

A dragon parade is a part of the celebration.

People dress like dragons and dance.

The dragons are ALSO a symbol of good luck in the new year!



A Symbol of Strength

The bald eagle is strong and free.

That's why it is a **symbol** of our country!

A bald eagle has thousands of feathers.

A bald eagle can see a fish from one mile away.

A bald eagle is not bald!
The word bald comes from an old word that means "white."

WordBlast

Can you think of another **symbol** of strength?



Its wings can be about four feet long from one end to the other!

A bald eagle's sharp claws are called talons.
It uses its talons to catch other animals for food.

Explore the InfoGraphic

1. Why are the bald eagle's talons so sharp?
2. How do a bald eagle's eyes help the eagle find food?
3. Do you think a bald eagle has a lot of feathers? Explain your answer.

American Heroes

Do you think a **hero** wears a costume and flies through the sky?

Many Americans work to help people every day.

They have jobs that can be dangerous.

These people are real American heroes!



WordBlast

What words tell what a **hero** is like?



With a partner, look at each picture.
What are these people doing in
their jobs?

Talk about how each worker is
helping others.

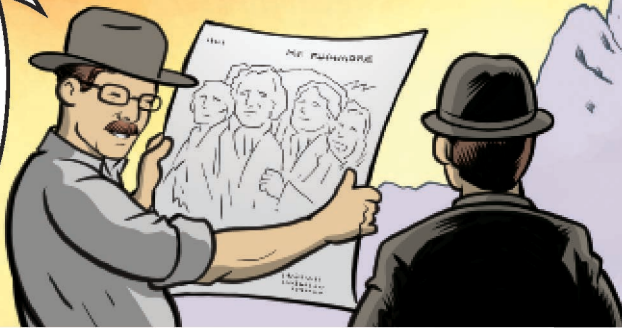


Building Mount Rushmore

TEXT:
STEPHEN KRENSKY
ART: EUREKA COMICS

The work begins on a big mountain.

Some presidents will look great here!



Workers blast the rock.

BOOM!
BOOM!

Then they chip away with tools.

I hope he doesn't sneeze!



It takes almost 14 years to build.

Wow, his head
is as tall as
a building!

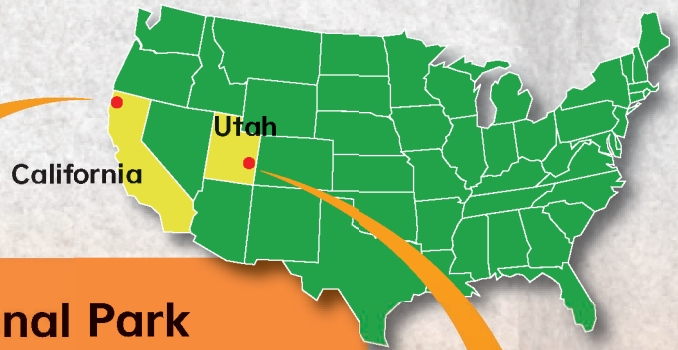


Now millions of people visit Mount Rushmore every year.



America's National Parks

Have you ever been to a **national** park?



Redwood National Park

This national park has some of the tallest trees in the world. Some trees are wide enough to drive a car through!

Arches National Park

People who visit can see thousands of rock arches. Wind, ice, and rain wore away the rock over many years!



And there are many more national parks!
Isn't our country beautiful?

WordBlast

What kind of **national** park would you like to visit? There are parks all over America!

Take Action!

More to Explore

Here are some ideas for you to think about!

Draw one way that shows how you are an American.

What do you like most about our country?
Tell a partner!

Where is one place in America you would like to visit?

WordBlast

Can you find these words in the magazine?

celebrate hero national symbol



Reflect

What does it mean to be an American?