



# Celebrating America

#### Lesson I

Independence Day

#### Lesson 2

The US Constitution

#### Lesson 3

National and State Symbols

#### Lesson 4

Our Monuments

#### Lesson 5

Our Important People and Events

Waving the flag is a fun way to celebrate America.



We celebrate America, the country we all live in. In this chapter, you'll read about the different ways people celebrate America. You will also think about why people celebrate America. As you read about celebrations, think about the important things America stands for. Think about ways that you can celebrate America!



#### The White House

The White House is where the president lives. The president is the leader of our country. Let's learn more about the White House!



The White House was built in Washington, D.C. The president and family live there. Presidents have lived in the White House since 1800.



The president works in the Oval Office. Here, the president makes phone calls and has meetings. This is also where the president makes plans for the country.



The Rose Garden is a beautiful garden outside the White House. The president can meet leaders from other countries here. The president may also give speeches in the Rose Garden.

## **Connect Through Literature**

# **A Colorful Picnic**

By Lissa Rovetch Art by Amy Wummer

Tex and Indi were in the kitchen helping Mom get everything ready for their Fourth of July picnic.

"Look," said Indi. "We have red apples, blue berries, and white potato salad."

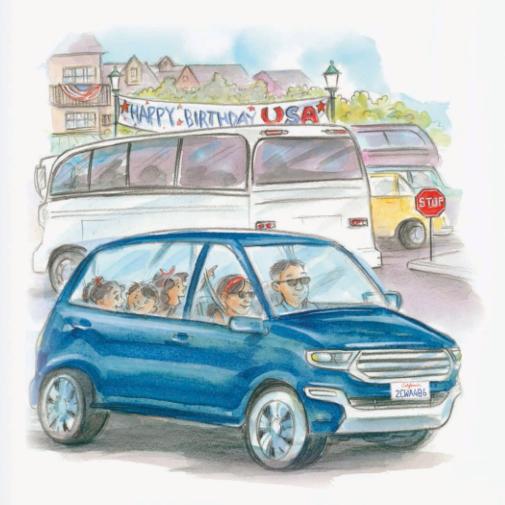
"And both of you are wearing red, white, and blue," said Mom. "I wonder what other red, white, and blue things we will find."



On the drive to the park, Indi said, "I see a red stop sign."

"I see a white bus and the blue sky," said Tex.

"And a red, white, and blue sign that says Happy Birthday, USA," said their sister, Arizona.





When they reached the park, they found a perfect spot. As they set out the food, Dad said, "Pretty soon we're going to see every color of the rainbow lighting up the sky."

"I can't wait!" said Tex.

"You'll have to wait till it's really dark," said Arizona.

After they finished eating, Mom and the kids took a walk.



When they got back, they waited, and waited, and waited.

Finally, they heard a big BOOM!

"Wow!" shouted Tex as the first firework burst overhead. "I wish every day could be the Fourth of July!" "Me, too!" said Indi. "Me three!" said Arizona.

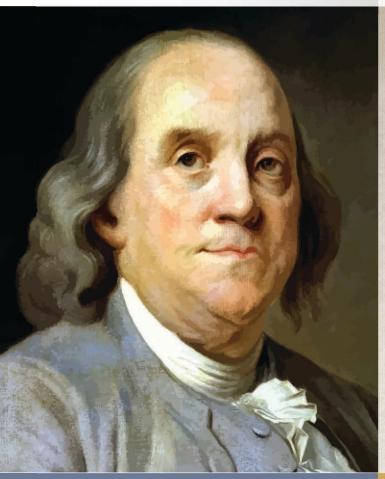


And pretty soon, they heard everyone in the park *oohing* and *aahing* as the fireworks sparkled overhead.

#### Think About It

- I. What special holiday is this story about? Why are so many things in the story red, white, and blue?
- 2. Why does the family have to wait so long for the fireworks?
- 3. What do you like about this family's celebration? What would you like to do to celebrate the holiday?

# People You Should Know



Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin was a great American. He was a scientist and a leader. He helped America become its own country. He proved that electricity was real by flying a kite in a thunderstorm. Ben Franklin had a lot to do with the founding of America.



**Harriet Tubman** 

Harriet Tubman was born in 1822. She was enslaved, but she escaped. She became a leader in the Underground Railroad, a path for enslaved people to escape to freedom. She helped to free many people. She was a fearless American. We will remember her bravery!





#### Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt was an American president.
He loved nature and being outside. Roosevelt worked hard to protect land in the United States. He started the National Parks program all around the country.
He made it possible for everyone to enjoy nature!

#### **Woody Guthrie**

Woody Guthrie was a folk singer. He wrote a famous song called "This Land Is Your Land." It is about how America belongs equally to all Americans. He wanted everyone in America to be treated fairly. His songs inspired hundreds of musicians!

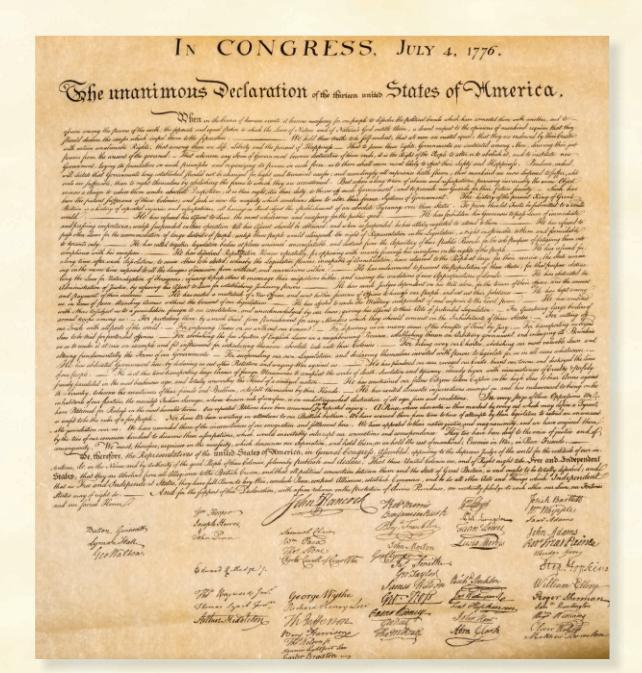


# Why Do Americans Celebrate Independence Day?

# The Declaration The Jeclaration The Je

Most colonists wanted independence from England. Their leaders met in Pennsylvania to write the Declaration of Independence. This was a document, or a paper with writing. It said that people should get to choose their leaders and help make decisions.

The leaders adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776. They wanted the colonies to become a country. Most colonists wanted to break away from England. They were happy about the document.



Fifty-six leaders signed the Declaration of Independence.

#### Stop and Check



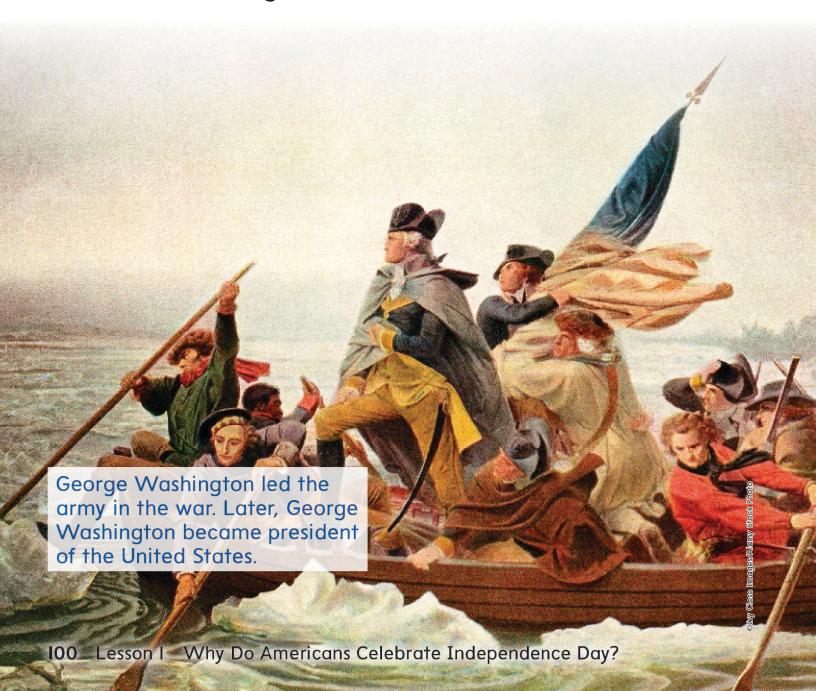
Talk What did the people want? What did the leaders do?

Find Details As you read, add new information to the graphic organizer on page II3 in your Inquiry Journal.

#### A Free Country

The leaders of the colonies talked to leaders in England. They read the Declaration of Independence. The document said that the people wanted to break away from England.

The King was not happy. England did not want to give up its colonies. The colonists went to war with England to win their freedom.





The colonists fought for their freedom.

The colonists fought against England for eight years. The colonists finally won freedom. They formed a new country. They called it the United States of America.



#### Stop and Check



Think Why did England go to war after the colonists said they wanted to be free?

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# Colonial America

Life was different in the colonies. Look at the pictures and read about how children in the colonies lived. Think about how their lives were different than your life today.

Children went to small schools. In the winter, wood stoves heated the schools. Jemes preserved but well expus?

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Children played with toys made of wood and string.

Many families farmed in the colonies.

They grew food and raised animals. Everyone helped out on the farm.

Long ago, there were no electric lights. People used candles to see at night. People had to make their own candles. Families made other things they needed, such as clothing and soap.



Families used candles to see at night. They made candles from animal fat.



Children worked each day. They fed chickens and collected eggs.

COLLABORATE



Think How is your life different than the life of a child who lived in the colonies?

#### Independence Day

Independence Day became a holiday in 1870. This was almost 100 years after the Declaration of Independence was written. This is the day to **celebrate** our freedom. To celebrate is to do something fun for an important event.

Many families celebrate with picnics.

Others play games or listen to music. How do people in your community celebrate Independence Day?

Many people decorate with American flags on Independence Day.



Independence Day is a day for fun. Many communities have parades with marching bands. Sometimes people give speeches. Some people wave flags. Buildings and homes might be decorated in red, white, and blue.

Be ready to hear fireworks at night! Boom! The bright colors light up the sky at parks and fairgrounds. The fireworks help us remember the people who fought for freedom.

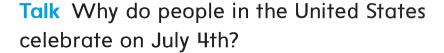


Independence Day is on July 4th every year.



One of the biggest fireworks shows takes place in Washington, D.C.

## Stop and Check



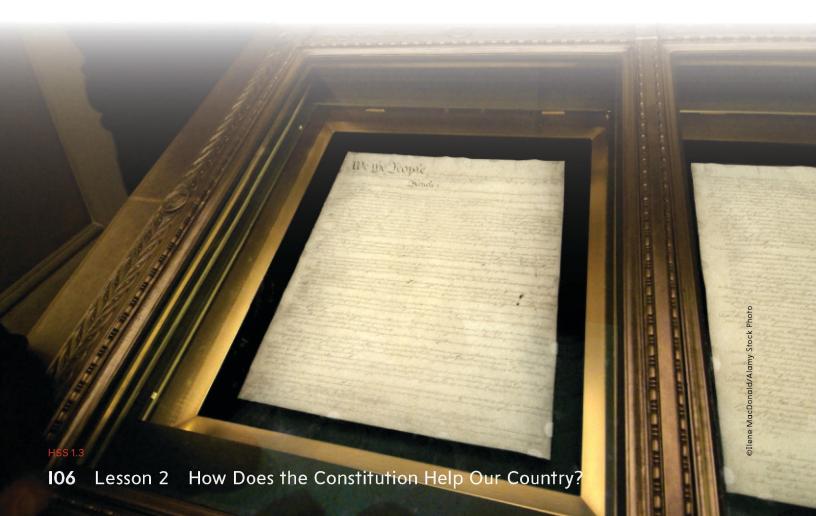
What Do You Think? Why is it important to understand how our country began?



# How Does the Constitution Help Our Country?

#### The Plan for Our Country

Long ago, the United States needed a plan for making laws. Leaders wrote the Constitution. The Constitution tells us how our leaders should make laws. Our leaders should make laws that are fair. The Constitution also tells the people how to follow laws.





Long ago, leaders wrote and signed the Constitution.

#### Stop and Check



Think What does the Constitution tell us? Find Details As you read, add new information to the graphic organizer on page I2I in your Inquiry Journal.

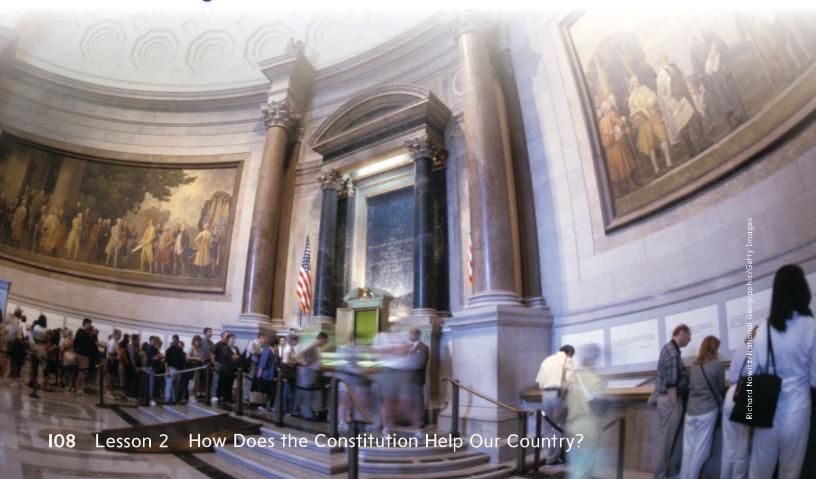
What Do You Think? Why do you think the United States needed a plan for making laws?

#### The Bill of Rights

The Constitution told how the **government** would work. Leaders also knew that the Constitution needed changes. These changes could be made in **amendments**. An amendment is a change in the words or meaning of a document.

The first ten amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights is a list of important rights and freedoms. It protects people in many ways.

Visitors look at the Bill of Rights on display in Washington, D.C.





The First Amendment is about freedom of speech.

It is not easy to change the Constitution. Over time, thousands of amendments have been talked about. Today, the Constitution has 27 amendments.

#### **⊘** Stop and Check



Think Why was the Bill of Rights added to the Constitution?

Find Details As you read, add new information to the graphic organizer on page I2I in your Inquiry Journal.

#### The Right to Vote

Every American citizen who is 18 or older has the right to vote. A citizen must sign up in order to vote.

Then citizens learn about people who want to be elected. Voters have many ways to learn about people who want to be leaders. Voters can read and listen to speeches. They can use computers. People can talk and listen to others. Voters need to make good decisions.



President Lyndon B. Johnson signs an amendment in 1964. This amendment tells when a vice-president might become president.

# The Constitution in the Classroom

One right the Constitution gives us is freedom of speech. This means we are allowed to share our ideas with others. Here are some ways to make fair classroom rules about freedom of speech.

#### Freedom of Speech in the Classroom

- I. Raise your hand to share ideas. Everyone should get a chance to talk!
- **2. Speak kind words to others.** Treat your classmates like you want to be treated!
- **3. Do not bully.** If you have a problem, talk it out. School is a fun place to be when we get along!
- 4. Be honest. Use your voice to tell the truth!





# What Do Our National and State Symbols Mean?

## Symbols of Our Country

Our country has many symbols. A symbol is something that stands for something else. A flag is a symbol of a country.

The American flag has 50 stars. Each star stands for one of the 50 states in our country. The I3 stripes on the flag stand for the I3 colonies that became America.

We treat our flag with respect. We raise it high for all to see. Sometimes we pledge allegiance to our flag. That means we promise to be part of this country.





#### Then and Now

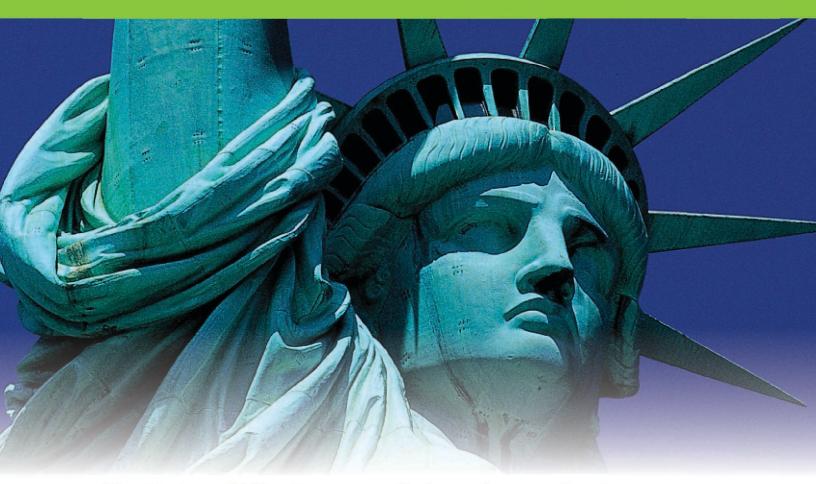
Our first flag had only 13 stars! The stars also stood for the 13 colonies.



#### Stop and Check



Talk Why do you think our flag shows our states and colonies as stars and stripes? Find Details As you read, add details to the graphic organizer on page 129 in your Inquiry Journal.



The Statue of Liberty was a gift from the people of France.

#### Statue of Liberty

The Statue of Liberty is in New York City. It is on a small island in New York Harbor. The statue holds a torch to greet people. She is a symbol of freedom and hope. A poem is on the base of the statue. The words of the poem welcome people who come to our country.

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free . . ."

-Emma Lazarus

The Statue of Liberty was a gift from France. France helped America win the war against England. They wanted to show us that they were still our friends.

The Statue of Liberty was sent to America on a ship. The statue was too big to send in one piece. It was sent in more than 200 pieces.

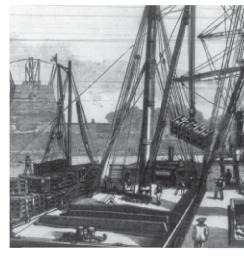


The Statue of Liberty's face is more than eight feet tall! Her crown has seven points. The points stand for the seven continents.

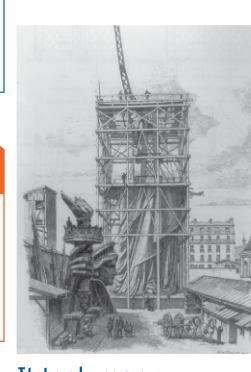
#### Stop and Check

Talk Why might people cheer when they see the Statue of Liberty?

Write Write a word that describes the Statue of Liberty.



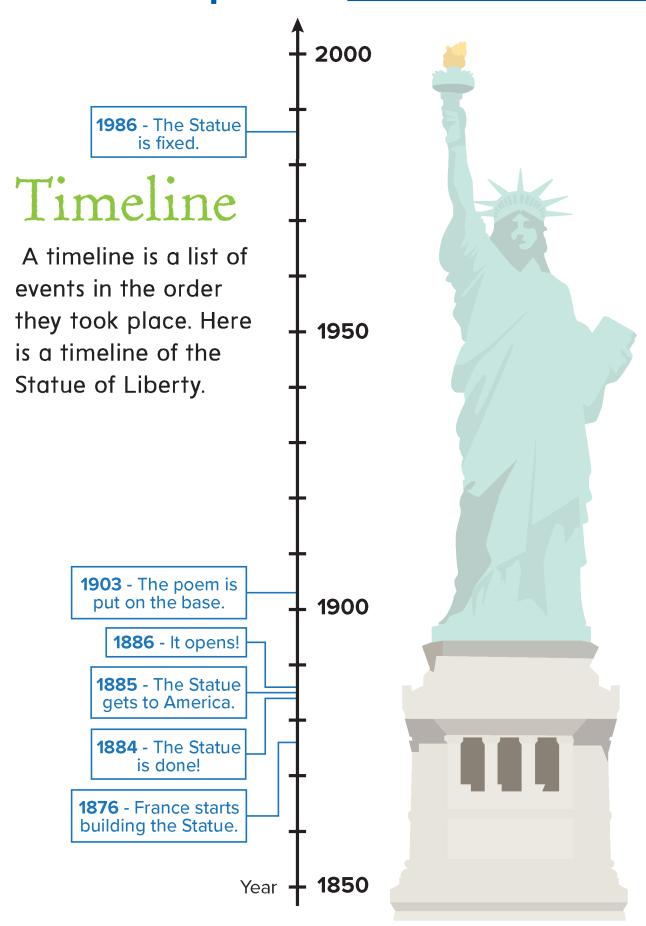
The Statue was shipped to New York City in pieces.

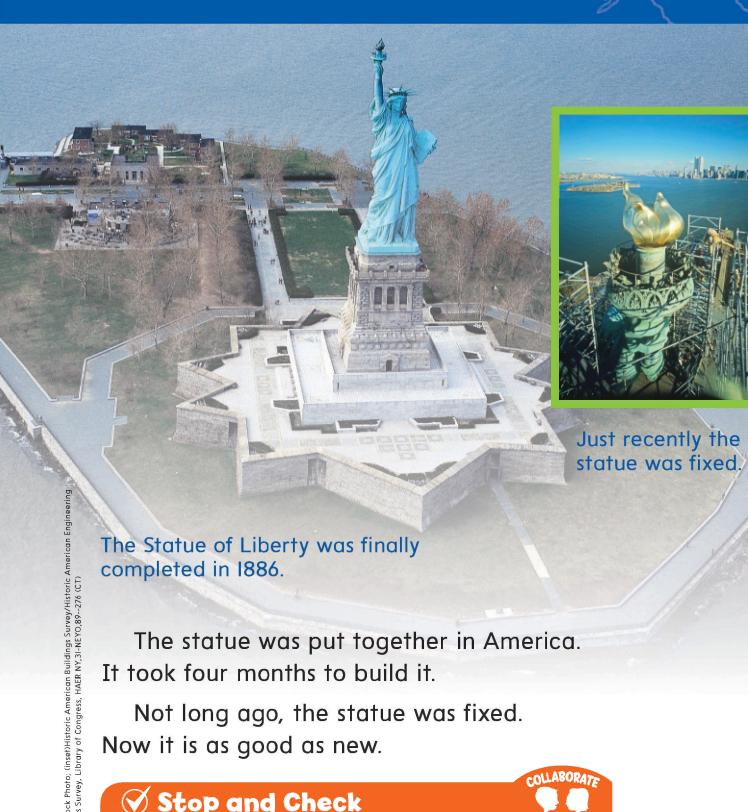


COLLABORAT

It took many months to put the parts together.

#### **Chart and Graph Skills**





#### Stop and Check



Talk How do you think Americans felt when the Statue of Liberty was completed? Why? Tell a partner.

#### The Bald Eagle

The bald eagle is a symbol of America. Eagles are big and strong. This is why America uses the bald eagle to stand for our country.

Ben Franklin was a Founding Father of the United States.

#### **Did You Know?**

Some people say that Ben Franklin wanted a wild turkey to be the symbol of our country! He thought that turkeys were better than eagles because eagles sometimes steal food from other birds.



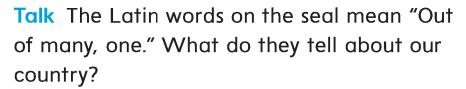
The wild turkey is a smart bird. It mostly walks or runs.



This seal is a symbol that stands for our president. The stripes stand for our first 13 states. The 13 clouds and 13 stars above the eagle do, too. The branch stands for peace. The arrows stand for war.

the Presidential Seal





Draw Draw part of the seal. Tell what the part means.

## California's Symbols

This is the Golden Gate Bridge. It is one of the symbols of our state. The bridge is a bright orange color. It shows people that California is a beautiful place.



The Golden Gate Bridge was built in San Francisco in 1937. Many people think it is the most beautiful bridge ever made.

Our state flag has a star and a bear. Some people call it the Bear Flag. The star stands for freedom.

The grizzly bear is a symbol of our state. The bear stands for strength and courage. Many bears used to live in our state.



the California state flag



Grizzly bears live long lives. They are strong and fast.

Every state has its own license plates for cars. California license plates sometimes have a sun, or palm trees!



This is what the California license plate looks like.

Our state has a nickname. It is "The Golden State." A lot of gold was found in our state. Many people came to look for gold.



These people were digging for gold in 1849. They were called 49ers.

COLLABORATE



#### Stop and Check

Talk What do our state symbols mean?

What Do You Think? Which state symbol do you like the best? Why?

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# What Do Monuments Help Us Remember?

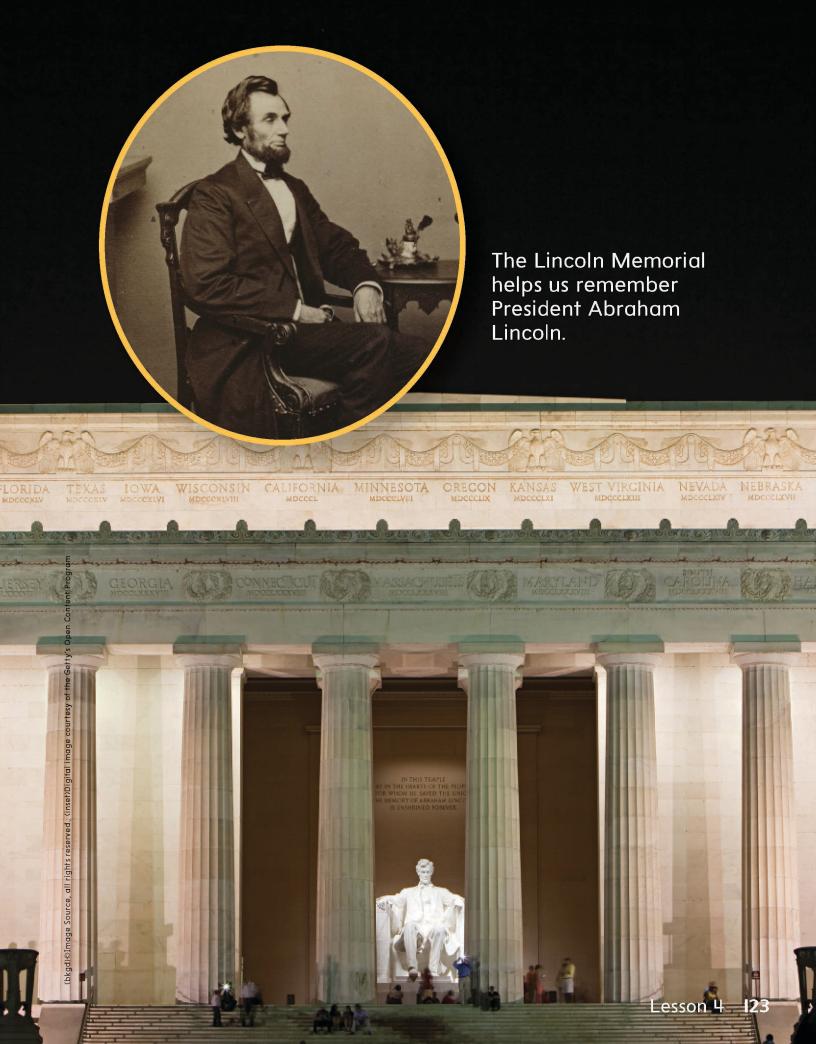
#### Presidential Monuments

A monument is a statue or other object.

Monuments help us remember people or events.

Some monuments help us remember United States presidents. The capital of the United States is Washington, D.C. There are many monuments to presidents there. People visit the monuments. The monuments remind us of our leaders and our history.







The Washington Monument has stairs that lead to the top.

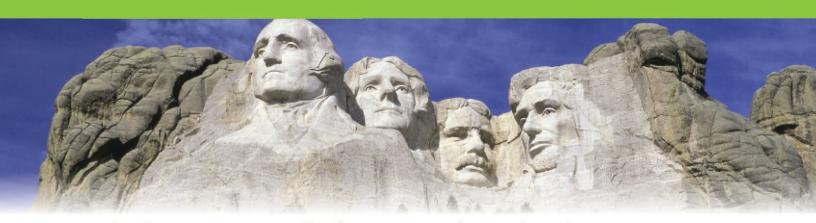
#### **Did You Know?**

Workers began to build the Washington Monument on July 4, 1848. When it was done, in 1884, it was the tallest building in the world at that time!

George Washington was the first president of the United States. The Washington Monument is tall. It looks like a tower.

Not all monuments are statues of people. Some are walls with writing carved in them. Some look like art.





The faces on Mount Rushmore are about sixty feet tall. That is as tall as a six-story building!

#### **Mount Rushmore**

Mount Rushmore is a huge monument in South Dakota. It shows the faces of four great presidents. Artists carved the faces into the side of a mountain.

Look at the faces from left to right. On the left is George Washington. Next are Thomas Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt. On the right is Abraham Lincoln.

Mount Rushmore is in a beautiful place. Two million people visit it each year. This monument reminds us of our leaders. It also reminds us of the beauty of our country.

#### Stop and Check

Talk How is Mount Rushmore different from monuments in Washington, D.C.?

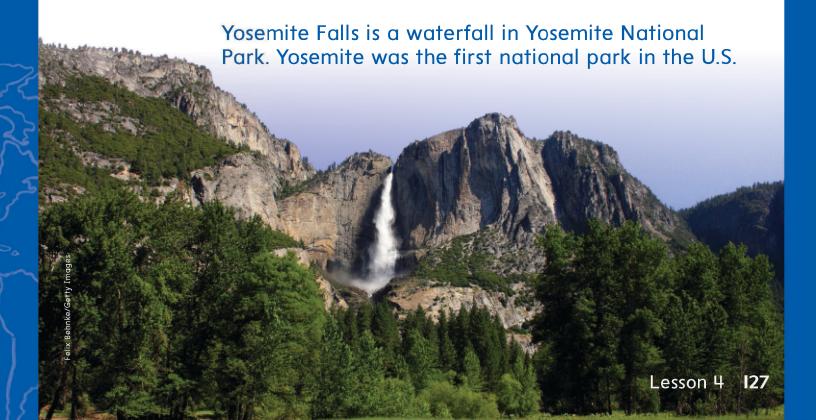
Find Details As you read, add important details to the graphic organizer on page 137 in your Inquiry Journal.

What Do You Think? Why do you think artists chose to carve Mount Rushmore into the side of a mountain?

## **National Parks**

National parks are wide spaces of land and water. The land and water is protected. That means that no one can live or build on them. They are places where animals and nature can be free.

President Theodore Roosevelt loved nature. He worked hard to make more national parks. Today there are over 50 national parks all over the United States. Some have mountains and snow. Some have deserts and canyons. Some have trees as tall as buildings. All kinds of animals live in them. People can visit these parks. They can see how beautiful America is!



### Landmarks and Monuments



The Great Wall of China is about 5,500 miles long.

The people of
China built a giant
wall 2,000 years ago.
They built the wall to
keep enemies away.
It is called The Great
Wall of China. Today
it is a monument. It
reminds people of
China's history.

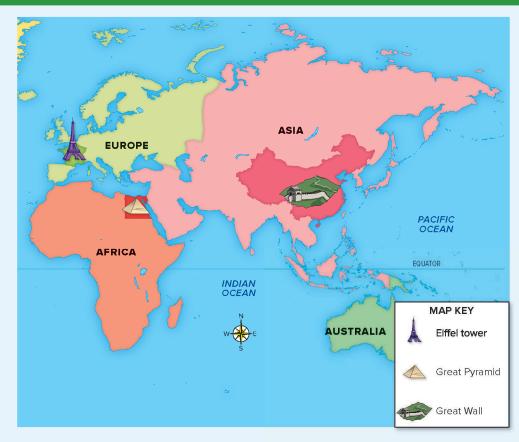


The base of the Great Pyramid is more than twice as long as a football field. It is the largest pyramid in the world.

The Great Pyramid of Giza is in Egypt. It is almost 5,000 years old. Egyptians built pyramids to place their leaders in after they died. Today the pyramids are monuments. The pyramids remind people of a special culture from long ago.

The Eiffel Tower is in Paris, France. It is a beautiful tower. The French built it to celebrate France's freedom. Today it is the most famous monument in France.

#### Where in the World?



More than seven million people visit the Eiffel Tower each year.

#### **Stop and Check**

Write Choose one monument you have read about. Write a postcard to a friend. Tell your friend what it looks like and what you learned about it.



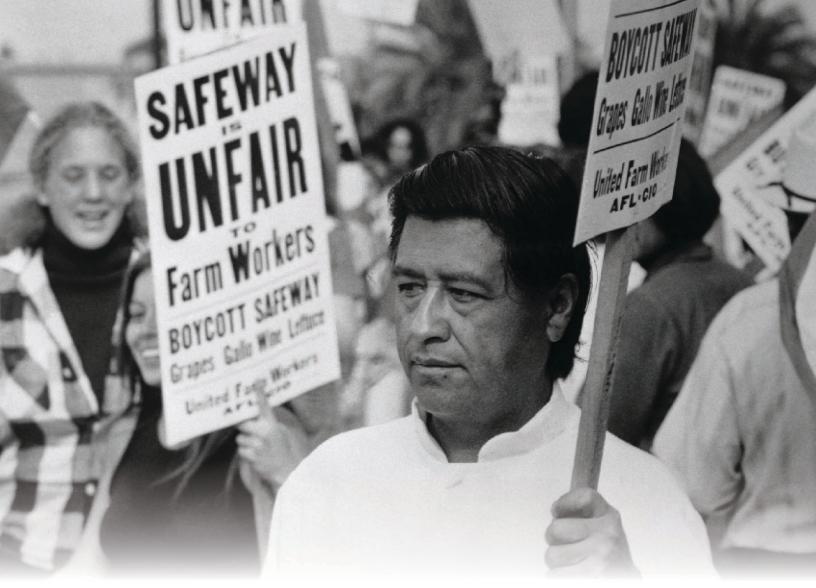
# How Do We Celebrate Important People and Events?

#### **Cesar Chavez Day**

A holiday is a special day of celebration. When we celebrate, we do something special for an important event. We have a holiday for Cesar Chavez. Why is it a special day?

Cesar Chavez worked to help farmers. The farmers had hard lives. They did not earn a lot of money. Chavez made sure they were paid fairly. He helped them be safe.





Cesar Chavez helped farm workers have more rights.

On Cesar Chavez Day, we celebrate what he did. Helping people on this holiday is one way we can honor him.

#### *✓* Stop and Check



COLLABORATE

Talk Why was Cesar Chavez an important person?

Find Details As you read, add new information to the graphic organizer on page 145 in your Inquiry Journal.

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#### Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. lived at a time when African Americans did not have the same rights as white people. He wanted all people to have the same rights. He helped other people think this way too.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is on the third Monday in January. To celebrate, we can think about his life. We can be kind to others. We can talk about why everyone should have equal rights.

JANUARY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Each year, Americans celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

This image displays in the product.

#### **Veterans Day**

On Veterans Day, we celebrate veterans. Veterans are people who once fought in our military. They helped keep our country safe. On this holiday, we have parades for them. We thank them for their help.



Veterans can take part in Veterans Day parades.



This is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. People come here to remember veterans who died in the Vietnam War.



## Earth Day

On Earth Day, we celebrate the Earth. It is our home. We do our part to keep it clean. We plant trees. We take care of the Earth. We can enjoy doing things outside. We can do this on Earth Day and every day.



People celebrate Earth Day in many ways.



We can celebrate Earth Day every day by recycling.



Riding bikes is one way to keep our Earth clean.

#### Stop and Check



**Draw** Draw a picture of one way kids can celebrate Earth Day.



Think about the chapter Essential Question, "How do we celebrate our country?"

**Talk** with a partner about some of the ways people celebrate America. Don't forget to talk about monuments and symbols. What is your favorite symbol of America? Share your ideas with the class.



#### More to Explore

**How Can You Make an IMPACT?** 

#### Celebrate Your Favorite Monument

Imagine you wanted people to visit your favorite building or monument from the chapter. Write a few sentences about why people should visit it. Make it sound exciting!

#### **Community Connections**

If you were going to build a monument in your community, what would you build? It could be anything that tells about where you live. Come up with a few ideas with your class.

#### **Eagle vs. Turkey**

The national bird of America is the Bald Eagle. But some people say that Ben Franklin wanted it to be the wild turkey. What do you think? Divide up into two groups, and debate about which is the better bird. Explain why each bird would be a good choice for the national bird.