

Symbols of Liberty

Show students an image of the Minuteman – discuss this symbol of the American Revolution.

Have students sit on the floor.

What are other symbols that are important to Americans?

As a class, define “symbol”

The Minuteman is a symbol of liberty to many Americans. What is a symbol? A symbol is an image that represents an idea, like a heart representing love.

What does liberty mean?

These images show objects or people who have come to symbolize liberty and freedom to many Americans. They have special meaning to us.

Pass around the laminated copies of Currier & Ives prints: 1) Freedom to the Slaves; 2) Washington and Lincoln, 3) Liberty Enlightening the World, 4) The Star Spangled Banner, 5) Benjamin Franklin.

Let every child get a chance to look at one.

What do these images mean to you? What do you see? These images are copies from the mid 1800s.

Looking at these images, who represented freedom and liberty to Americans in the late 1800s? We see George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Why? We see the American flag, the Statue of Liberty and Ben Franklin. Who might we today see as a symbol of American freedom and liberty? (*Ex. MLK, Rosa Parks, the President, a military leader, etc*)