The contents of the K – 12 LEGIS LESSONS were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education (Grant No. 84.304c – LEGIS: Legislative Education for Greater Inquiry and Study). However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. (EDGAR: 34 CFR)
Lesson Title: American Symbols and Landmarks
Prepared By: Christina Andersen

Grade Level: K-2

Time Required: Spend between 20-30 minutes per session. The number of sessions depends on which landmarks/symbols you are teaching.

I. Essential Questions
What is an American symbol?
Why are American symbols?
What is the United States Flag and what does it symbolize?
What does the Pledge of Allegiance mean?
What does the bald eagle symbolize?
What is the Liberty Bell and what does it symbolize?
What is the Statue of Liberty?
What is the Washington Monument and what does it represent?
What is Mount Rushmore and what does it represent?
What is the White House and why is it important?
What is Crazy Horse and what does it represent?

II. South Dakota Grade Level Content Standards
Indicator 1: Analyze forms and purposes of government in relationship to the needs of citizens and societies including the impact of historical events, ideals, and documents.
K.C.1.1. Students are able to identify patriotic symbols and participate in activities.
1.C.1.1. Students are able to identify American symbols and landmarks.

III. Assessment Strategies
1. Attached to this lesson are coloring sheets for each landmark. Use the completed coloring/fact book to check for understanding.
2. A participation grade could also be given (Participation Checklist attached).

IV. Learning Objectives
1. The students will learn what a symbol is.
2. The students will learn 1-3 important facts about different American Landmarks and Symbols.
V. **Necessary Materials/Technology:**
1. Read Aloud book for each landmark/symbol. Possible choices are:
   - The Statue of Liberty by Lloyd G. Douglas
   - The American Flag by Lloyd G. Douglas
   - Red White and Blue by Susan Canizares
   - The Liberty Bell by Lloyd G. Douglas
   - The Pledge of Allegiance by Lloyd G. Douglas
   - An Eagle Flies High by Alice Pernick
2. Chart Paper/Large pieces of Construction Paper
3. Computer, Internet Access, Projector
4. Pledge of Allegiance Activity Page (1 copy per student)
5. Coloring pages (1 copy per student)
6. Book: The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn
7. Sample Graphic Organizers
8. Observation Checklist (optional)

VI. **Background Information:**
No background information needed.

VII. **Detailed Lesson Description**

**Day 1: What is an American symbol and why are they important?**
1. Read the book *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn. In this book, a mother raccoon kissed her son on the hand to symbolize her presence and love. Every time her son felt lonely and needed to feel loved all he needed to do was press his “kissed” hand to his cheek as a reminder of how much his mother loved him.
2. After reading the book, talk about the Kissing Hand and what it means. Explain that the kiss symbolized his mother's love for him. Have the children repeat the word symbolize with you a number of times.
3. Place the word “symbol” on a piece of chart paper. Discuss what it means. Write the definition next to the word. Ask the children to think of some things around them that symbolize something. For example, a STOP sign is a symbol to everyone that they need to stop. The flag that we say the pledge to every morning is a symbol of country. List the symbols they mention to you on chart paper.
4. Once you have a good list, add the following to it (if they are not already on it) The Pledge of Allegiance, The American Flag, The Bald Eagle, Mount Rushmore, The Washington Monument, The White House, Crazy Horse, and The Liberty Bell. Explain that they will be learning more about these symbols/landmarks.

**Day 2: The Pledge of Allegiance**
1. Introduce the Pledge of Allegiance to the children by doing the pledge to the flag.

2. Have a poster of the Pledge of Allegiance or write it on chart paper. Hang the poster/written chart in the room where all kids can see it. Remind the children of the symbol that Chester the Raccoon used to show how much his mother loved him. Explain that the Pledge of Allegiance is a symbol to show respect for the United States Flag as well as our love of our country.

3. Hand out the Pledge of Allegiance Handout and explain that they are going to learn what the Pledge of Allegiance means. Do this activity as a group so that you can discuss it as you go. Some of the words may be difficult to understand without discussion of each. Collect the completed paper and give them points for participating with you to complete the task as well as correctly following directions.

**NOTE:** The following sessions teach the other landmarks/symbols mentioned above. The number of sessions it takes depends on the ones you choose to teach and how many sessions you plan to take to teach each one. The following is a general format to teach each landmark/symbol. Simply change which chart/graphic to use, and list facts about the landmark/symbol.

**Days 3(+) Teaching More Landmarks/Symbols.**

1. To begin the teaching of each landmark/symbol, read a book about that particular landmark/symbol aloud to the children. Above, in the materials list, is list of books from which you could choose. For Crazy Horse, Mount Rushmore, The White House, and the Washington Monument, you may want to go to the online component (Step 2) and discuss that with the children. You may also be able to contact Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, and the Washington Monument and ask for information about their landmark.

2. After reading the book aloud, discuss some of the things they learned. Record what they say on a chart. The following charts could be used: Web, Listing Chart, 4-Corners Chart, WOW Chart, Five Finger Facts Chart, KWL (use prior to reading and then complete after reading); T-Chart (similar to KWL but write what they learned on one side and what questions they have after learning that new information). You can also use a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast two different landmarks/symbols.

3. Reread the charts together.

4. Using a computer, internet access, and a projector go online to: [http://www.kidport.com/GradeK/SocialStudies/AmericanSymbols.htm](http://www.kidport.com/GradeK/SocialStudies/AmericanSymbols.htm) (If the landmark/symbol you are trying to teach is not on this sight, do an internet search. There are numerous sights with information about landmarks/symbols.) Additional Coloring Pages can be found at: [http://coloringbookfun.com/patriotic/](http://coloringbookfun.com/patriotic/)

Select the landmark/symbol you are studying and read some of the information with the kids. To get the kids moving, have them repeat the facts that you share with a Simon Says game. For example, Simon Says bounce up and down while you say, “There are 50 stars on the American Flag” or
“The American Flag is red, white, and blue”. Use different motions or movements for the different facts you want your students to know.

5. Have each child look at someone sitting next to them and share one to three facts that they learned (number of facts depends on the age).

6. Hand out the coloring pages to the children. After teaching about the landmark or symbol, have the students go to the page in the coloring book that represents that particular symbol or landmark. Have them think about what they learned about that symbol and then write 1-3 facts depending on the age level. For Kindergarten and First grade it might be more beneficial to have the students color the picture while you go to each child and have them tell you a fact and you can write it down for them. Use the completed coloring/fact book to check for understanding.

VIII. Enrichment
Teaching landmarks and symbols can be integrated into Guided Reading. The books listed above can be used within a reading group. The students can read the book, complete a graphic organizer, and then write one fact in the coloring book.

There are numerous websites that have links to online games/activities that could be used in a computer center.

IX. Bibliography/Resources
Coloring Book Fun: http://coloringbookfun.com/patriotic/

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## Participation Checklist: Symbols and Landmarks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT NAME</th>
<th>Participated in Class Assignments</th>
<th>Participated in Class Discussions</th>
<th>Followed directions during whole group activities/projects</th>
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WOW Chart

Write at least three “Wow” Facts that you learned

Wow #1

Wow #2

Wow #3
Finger Facts

*Write one fact per finger.
Fact #1

Fact #2

Fact #3

Fact #4

4-Corners Chart
I have learned......

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.
# KWL Chart

**What I.........**

Name: __________________________

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Know</th>
<th>Wonder</th>
<th>Learned</th>
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The Pledge of Allegiance

I agree to be loyal to the flag of the United States of America and to the country for which it stands, one country under God, that can’t be separated into more than one government, with Choice/freedom and Fairness/honesty, for all.

Cut out the words and glue them to the top of the corresponding box above.

Pledge  Allegiance  Republic

Nation  Indivisible  Liberty

Justice
THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning
to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless,
the tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”
The Liberty Bell
The Washington Monument
Crazy Horse Memorial
Bald Eagle