SYMBOLS OF AMERICA AS TOLD BY STAMPS

Star Spangled Banner Scott #4853

Written by: Cathy Y. Brachbill, Ph.D.
Graphic Design by: Janet Houser
The images found on postage stamps provide a visual history of the people and events that helped to shape the United States.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

After reading, “Symbols of America as told by Stamps” you will be able to:

1. Describe symbols that represent the United States of America.
2. Identify individuals depicted on stamps who are important historical figures.
3. Name landmarks that represent the American values of freedom, liberty, equality, and justice.

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American Philatelic Society  
100 Match Factory Place  
Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823  
www.stamps.org

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SYMBOLS OF AMERICA
AS TOLD BY STAMPS

Written by: Cathy Y. Brachbill, Ph.D.
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Big Idea
The images found on postage stamps provide a visual history of the people and events that helped to shape the United States.

Essential Questions
• How do symbols tell America’s story?
• What images found on postage stamps help to describe the American values of; freedom, liberty, equality, and justice?

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Introduction

How do you feel when you see the American flag waving in the wind? What about when you hear the national anthem being played or recite the Pledge of Allegiance? What do you imagine people think the first time that they see the Statue of Liberty?

Things that remind us of the nation in which we live are called symbols. A symbol can be an important place, an interesting object, or inspiring words. There are many symbols that represent the United States of America. Postage stamps, the flag, certain landmarks, and the national anthem all communicate messages that help to describe our country. The objects, places, and words in this book illustrate many symbols that are cherished by U.S. citizens: symbols that display images of freedom, liberty, equality, and justice.

Scott # 4629–4632
Equality, Justice, Freedom, Liberty
Scott # refers to a number assigned to a specific stamp by the Scott Publishing Company of Sidney, Ohio. Their numbers are universally accepted stamp identifiers by collectors.

Interesting Facts

- The U.S. flag has changed 28 times since 1776.
- There are more than 2500 national historic landmarks in the United States.
Chapter 1

U.S. Postal Stamps

For more than 160 years, the U.S. Postal Service has been recording the history of our country with stamps. The illustrations found on stamps tell stories about important people, places, and events. These symbols of America help us to understand the struggles and achievements that helped to shape life as we know it today.

The first U.S. postal stamp was issued in 1847. Postal stamps have colorful designs and provide a peek into the past. Printed on most U.S. stamps are the initials, USA, and a number that indicates the denomination or price paid for the stamp. The denomination indicates the amount of postage the stamp pays towards the cost of mail delivery.

Benjamin Franklin, Postmaster

In 1737, Benjamin Franklin became postmaster of Philadelphia where he helped to cut in half the time it took to receive mail. He served as Deputy Postmaster of North America from 1752 until 1774. On July 26, 1775, the Continental Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin the first Postmaster General of the United States.

Look closely at the Ben Franklin, Postmaster stamp (left) and find the following:

- The denomination
- An 18th century post boy
- 1775 letter sent from Marlboro, Maryland to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- A colonial-era postmark
Benjamin Franklin Museum

In Benjamin Franklin’s day, there were no stamps (stamps were not yet invented). Instead of using stamps, people wrote their names on the top corners of envelopes. Those receiving mail paid the postage, not the senders of the mail as it is done today.

As Postmaster General, Franklin had free mailing privileges (called “franking”). To mail an item for free all he had to do was sign the envelope. He chose to sign his mail, “B. Free Franklin”, as a protest against British rule.

This envelope cover shows the Ben Franklin Museum and Post Office. The postmark appears the way Franklin signed his letters, B. Free Franklin. Can you identify the city where the museum is located?

National Postal Museum

This stamp commemorates the opening of the Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum in 1993. It features a portrait of Benjamin Franklin based on a Joseph-Siffred Duplessis painting currently hanging in the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery.

Items on the stamp reflect Franklin’s career as a printer (printing press), postmaster (mail rider), and statesman (Independence Hall). Can you find them?
“Old Glory” is a nickname for the flag of the United States. Also referred to as the “Stars & Stripes”, the flag can be seen flying over schools, post offices, fire departments, and many public buildings. The flag is one of the most enduring symbols of America.

**The 13-Star/13-Stripe Flag**

In 1776, Congress wanted a flag that would serve as a visual sign of the new nation’s declaration of freedom from the British. A flag with 13 stars and 13 stripes became America’s first flag. The most distinctive feature of the flag was the arrangement of 13 stars in a circle. Why thirteen stars? One star for each of the original colonies. How many of the original colonies can you name?

The 13-star flag is often called the “Betsy Ross” flag. However, not everyone believes that Betsy Ross was the designer of the original American flag. Some think that Francis Hopkinson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, designed the first flag and that Betsy Ross was the seamstress.
The 13-star flag became the official United States flag on June 14, 1777. On that date, the Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, voted for a flag with 13 white stars on a blue field and 13 red and white stripes. We now observe Flag Day on June 14th every year by displaying flags and attending parades.

**Interesting Facts**

- This stamp is from a painting by Charles H. Weisgerber, “The Birth of Our Nation’s Flag”. The painting is on display at the State Museum of Pennsylvania.
- In the image, Betsy Ross is showing a flag to General Washington, Robert Morris, and George Ross.
- The painting helped to make Betsy Ross the most famous woman in American history. Since no images of Ross existed, Weisgerber created her face from photographs of her daughters and other female relatives.
- Can you find this stamp on a different page in this book?

**During the 19th century, school children recited**

**O Flag of Our Union to honor the flag:**

O flag of our Union,  
To you we'll be true,  
To your red and white stripes,  
And your stars on the blue;  
The emblem of freedom,  
The symbol of right,  
We children salute you,  
O flag fair and bright!
Chapter 2

**The 15-Star/15-Stripe Flag**

In 1795, when Vermont and Kentucky became states, two stars and two stripes were added to the official flag. The flag with 15 stars and 15 stripes was the flag that flew over Fort McHenry when Francis Scott Key wrote *The Star Spangled Banner* during the War of 1812.

![Ft. McHenry Flag (Scott #1346)](image)

**The Flag Act of 1818**

The Flag Act of 1818 returned the flag to the original 13 stripes. The Act declared that the number of stars on the flag should match the number of states and that new stars be added on July 4, following a state’s admission to the union.

![American Flag (Scott #4273)](image)

**The 50-Star Flag**

In 1960, after Hawaii was admitted as the 50th state, the 50-star flag became the official U.S. flag.

![Raising of the Flag on the Lunar Surface (Scott #2419)](image)

**INTERESTING FACTS**

Did you know that there are six United States flags on the Moon? On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin planted the first flag on the Moon as commemorated on this stamp. Additional flags were planted by astronauts from Apollo 12, 14, 15, 16, and 17. Why were astronauts from Apollo 13 unable to place a flag on the Moon?
Chapter 3

The National Anthem

Songs can be symbols, too. *The Star Spangled Banner* is the national anthem of the United States of America.

**Francis Scott Key**

*The Star Spangled Banner* was written by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812, a war between the United States and Britain that lasted almost three years. On the night of September 13, 1814, Key watched from a boat as Baltimore Harbor was being attacked by the British navy. All night, he saw the “rockets’ red glare” and heard “bombs bursting in air”. At dawn, Key saw that the American flag was still flying over Fort McHenry.

Francis Scott Key was so inspired by the American victory and the sight of the large American flag flying triumphantly above the fort; Key, still aboard ship, began writing a poem on the back of a letter he had in his pocket. His poem began with the words, “Oh! Say, can you see, by the dawn’s early light…” The poem was later set to music. In 1931, *The Star Spangled Banner* became the official national anthem of the United States of America.
The flag with 15 stars and 15 stripes that inspired Key’s poem later came to be known as “The Star Spangled Banner”. It is currently on display in the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Major George Armistead

In June 1813, Major George Armistead arrived in Baltimore, Maryland, to take command of Fort McHenry. Armistead wanted a flag, “so large that the British will have no difficulty seeing it from a distance.” So he asked Mary Pickersgill, a Baltimore flag maker, to sew two flags for the fort: a smaller storm flag (17 by 25 ft) and a larger garrison flag (30 by 42 ft). It took Pickersgill eight weeks to make the two flags. She charged the government $405.90 for the garrison flag and $168.54 for the storm flag.

The larger of these two flags became known as the “Star-Spangled Banner”. Each star on this large flag measured approximately two feet in diameter and each stripe about 24 inches wide.

Imagine a full-sized basketball court. The garrison flag was as big as one-quarter of a basketball court! The flag flew from a flagpole about ninety feet high and was visible from great distances.
**Interesting Facts**

- The original “Star Spangled Banner” flag measured 30 feet by 42 feet.
- It took eleven men to hoist the garrison flag up the flagpole. A smaller storm flag was flown during rainy weather to keep the garrison flag from getting wet. A wet garrison flag would have weighed more than 500 pounds and the flagpole would have snapped trying to support it.
- Due to damage suffered over the years the garrison flag now measures 30 feet by 34 feet.
- The flag is on exhibit at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.
Chapter 4

The Pledge of Allegiance

Pledges can also be symbols. The “Pledge of Allegiance” symbolizes loyalty, liberty, and justice. Americans show loyalty to their country, celebrate their liberty, and promise justice for all, every time they recite the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

Francis Bellamy

Francis Bellamy, a minister turned newspaperman, wrote the original Pledge in 1892 for the opening ceremonies of the Columbian Exposition, the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus’ arrival in the New World. An important part of the commemorative program was to be a new salute to the flag for school children to recite in unison.

I pledge allegiance...

(Scott #2593)

Millions of school children nationwide took part in the 1892 Columbus Day ceremony by reciting the pledge that Bellamy wrote, *I pledge allegiance to my flag and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*
Chapter 4

Pledge Adopted by Congress

It wasn’t until 1942, on the 50th anniversary of the writing of the Pledge, that Congress finally adopted it as the nation’s pledge. The official name, “The Pledge of Allegiance”, was adopted in 1945. The last change to the Pledge came on Flag Day 1954 when the words “under God” were added.

Students reciting the Pledge of Allegiance
(Scott #3187f)
In 1776, the Continental Congress asked Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson to design a seal that would represent the United States of America. The seal would be used to put an imprinted stamp on a document. Members wanted the seal to reflect freedom and liberty, values that they wished to pass on to future generations. It took six years for Franklin, Adams, and Jefferson to create the seal. Congress approved it on June 20, 1782.

Find items on the Seal above:
- An American bald eagle (the national bird) holding a ribbon in its beak.
- The motto of the USA, “E PLURIBUS UNUM,” meaning “Out of many, one.”
- An olive branch, symbolizing peace.
- Arrows, one for each of the 13 original colonies.
- Above the eagle’s head is a cloud containing 13 white stars forming a constellation. The constellation symbolizes the formation of a new nation.

How many red and white stripes are on the shield in front of the eagle? What do you suppose they represent?
- The blue bar at the top of the shield symbolizes the uniting of the 13 colonies and represents Congress.
- Both sides of the seal can be seen on the back side of the $1 bill.
Many American landmarks remind us of the fight for independence and freedom led by our forefathers.

**Independence Hall**

Independence Hall is located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The building of the Hall took many years. Construction started in 1732 and was not finished until 1756. It was first used by the colonial legislature for the Province of Pennsylvania, then as the Pennsylvania State House and also by the Continental Congress.

Independence Hall is often called the “Birthplace of America” since the Declaration of Independence was signed there on July 4, 1776. The Constitution of the United States was debated, drafted, and signed there as well.

**Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence**

Thomas Jefferson was 33 years old when he began working on the document that would become the Declaration of Independence. He worked alone writing draft after draft. He showed his final piece to John Adams and Benjamin Franklin, two people whom he trusted and admired. Jefferson then presented the final draft to the members of the “Committee of Five”, made up of himself, Adams, Franklin, Robert R. Livingston, and Rodger Sherman. Committee members made some revisions and submitted it to the Continental Congress on June 28, 1776. Congress further edited the manuscript, reducing Jefferson’s 1800 words by one quarter. The Continental Congress voted for independence and its members signed the document that we now call the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.
A set of four stamps was designed after a painting by John Trumbull entitled, “Declaration of Independence” (Scott #1691–1694)

**INTERESTING FACTS**

- John Trumbull’s painting does not show the actual signing of the *Declaration of Independence*.
- It shows the presentation of the draft of the Declaration by the “Committee of Five”.
- The Committee can be seen standing in the center of the painting.

**The Liberty Bell**

The bell tower of what is now known as Independence Hall housed the bell that was used to call lawmakers to their meetings. The bell was also used to call the townspeople together to hear the reading of the news. This bell rang on July 8, 1776 to celebrate the signing of the *Declaration of Independence*.

**The State House Bell**

The bell was first known as the “State House Bell”. It is engraved with the following words, “Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the Land unto all the inhabitants thereof.” In 1835, members of the anti-slavery movement began calling it “The Liberty Bell”.

Liberty Bell (Scott #1595)
The Bell Develops a Split

In the early 1840s, after nearly 90 years of hard use, a narrow split developed in the bell. In 1846, the city of Philadelphia decided to have the bell repaired so it could properly ring on George Washington’s birthday holiday. The repair was not successful. When the bell was rung in honor of Washington’s Birthday it became irreparably cracked.

The Traveling Liberty Bell

Beginning in 1885, the Liberty Bell traveled across the country. It was displayed at expositions and fairs. The bell helped to remind Americans of a time when they fought together for independence and became a symbol of national unity.

During the bell’s travels, it visited over 400 cities and towns, including Chicago, New Orleans, Indianapolis, and St. Louis. Sadly, more cracks occurred and souvenir hunters chipped small pieces of metal off of the bell. The bell lost 1% of its weight due to the souvenir thieves, leaving it in poor condition. The travels of the Liberty Bell stopped in 1915 so that it could be preserved and protected against further damage.

Interesting Facts

- The Liberty Bell has a circumference of 12 feet.
- Its height is 3 feet. The Bell weights 2,080 pounds.
- It is 70% copper and 25% tin.
Chapter 6

**Statue of Liberty**

The Statue of Liberty is one of America’s most recognizable symbols. The statue, dedicated on October 28, 1886, was a gift of friendship from the people of France to the United States. It is located on Liberty Island in New York Harbor.

French sculptor Auguste Bartholdi’s design of the “Liberty” statue was inspired by a Victor Hugo poetry verse.

_Arise, you who sleep! – For he who follows me, Who sends me forward first, This is the angel Liberty, this is the giant light!_

— Excerpt from Hugo’s poem “Stella”

Lady Liberty carries a tablet in her left arm inscribed with the date, July 4, 1776, to celebrate America’s fight for independence. This symbol of freedom holds a torch in her right hand to “light the night” and serve as a beacon for ships in the harbor.

**Interesting Facts**

- The entire monument measured from the base of the pedestal to the tip of the torch is 305 feet 6 inches.
- The statue portion of the monument measures 111 feet 6 inches from her heel to the tip of the torch.
- The statue weighs 450,000 pounds.

Poet Emma Lazarus wrote a poem, “The New Colossus”, which is inscribed on a plaque at Lady Liberty’s base. It states, “Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free”. 
**White House**

The White House is where the President of the United States lives. It is located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. The White House has been the home of every president since John Adams. The Oval Office, the name for the President’s office, is located in the West Wing of the White House.

**Interesting Facts**

- This large mansion has 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms, 28 fireplaces, 412 doors, 147 windows, 7 staircases, and 3 elevators.
- The mansion is 70 feet high and has 6 levels.
- 6,000 people per day visit the White House.
- For recreation and entertainment, there is a tennis court, jogging track, swimming pool, movie theater, billiard room and bowling lane.

- In July 1792, James Hoban was the winner of the White House design competition. His initial design was three floors high and had nine windows across. George Washington had it changed to a two-story front with 11 windows across.
- Construction on the White House began in 1792.
- When John Adams moved there in 1800, only six rooms were completed.
Chapter 6

U.S. Capitol

The United States Senate and House of Representatives meet in the U.S. Capitol Building to make our country’s laws. This symbol of American government is located on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

**Interesting Facts**

- The Capitol Building is 288 feet tall.
- The building is 751 feet 4 inches long and 350 feet wide.
- It has its own subway system.
- There are 144 solar panels on the fifth floor roof.
- The National Statuary Hall is located inside. Each state contributed two statues to the hall.
- Do you know which two statues were donated by your state?

- The Statue of Freedom sits on top of the Capitol Dome. The statue is 19 ½ feet tall and weighs 15,000 pounds.
- The words on the Flag over Capitol Dome stamp are part of a line from Abraham Lincoln’s most important speech, one that has come to symbolize the meaning of American government. Do you know this speech?

U.S. Capitol at Cherry Blossom (Scott #4983)

Flag Over Capitol Dome (Scott #2116)
Chapter 6  

**Washington Monument**

One of the most identifiable American monuments is the Washington Monument. It was built to honor George Washington, the first President of the United States and the “father” of our country. The monument is an obelisk, an upright, 4-sided pillar that narrows as it goes up. At its base, the monument is 55 feet wide and it narrows to 34 feet, 5 inches at the top.

Located in Washington, D.C., the Washington Monument is 555 feet high and is the world’s tallest stone structure. It is made up of 36,491 blocks. The monument is surrounded by 50 American flags and is a great source of pride for all Americans.

**Cherry Blossoms & the Washington Monument (Scott #4651)**  
Did you know that George Washington is the only U.S. president to have never served in Washington, D.C.? He served in New York City and Philadelphia but left office before D.C. was completed.

**Cherry Blossoms & the Jefferson Memorial (Scott #4652)**  
The Jefferson Memorial was dedicated in 1943, on Jefferson’s 200th birthday.

**Lincoln Memorial**

A 19-foot statue of Abraham Lincoln sits inside the Lincoln Memorial overlooking the Reflecting Pool and the Washington Monument. This memorial honors the 16th President of the United States, a man who defended equality.

From 1959–2008, the Lincoln Memorial was shown on one side of the one-cent coin, Lincoln is on the other side. Look through your pennies at home and see if you can find a Lincoln penny!
Jefferson Memorial

The Jefferson Memorial honors Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States. Jefferson was the author of the Declaration of Independence. He was also an architect, musician, book collector, scientist, diplomat, and inventor.

This memorial is a symbol of our independence. Constructed out of white marble, the monument features 26 columns (one for each state in existence at the time of Jefferson’s death).

**Interesting Facts**

- The Jefferson Memorial is 129 feet high.
- Lines from the Declaration of Independence are inscribed on an inside wall of the memorial.
- It is located next to the Potomac River in Washington, D.C.
Conclusion

Symbols of freedom, liberty, equality, and justice are all around us. They can be seen in American flags waving in the wind and on postage stamp images found in our mailboxes. We can hear symbols during the singing of *The Star Spangled Banner* and the reciting of the “Pledge of Allegiance”. When visiting the Statue of Liberty, Washington Monument, or Liberty Bell, we can even experience a symbol.

Stamps help to tell America’s story. The images found on postage stamps remind us of the people and events that helped to shape our country. What stories do the stamps in this book still have to tell? What symbols can stamps help us to see, hear, and experience?

Revisiting the Big Idea and Essential Questions

*Remember to cite text evidence when answering each of the following:*

1. List symbols that represent the United States of America.

2. Identify important historical figures and landmarks found on stamps.

3. What images found on postage stamps help to describe the American values of freedom, liberty, equality, and justice?

4. Explain how the images found on postage stamps tell the history of the United States.
Glossary

achievements: Something accomplished through hard work, courage, or skill
allegiance: Loyalty to a person, country, or cause
anthem: A song of praise or patriotism
commemorate: A stamp, medal, or coin designed to honor one or more persons or events
constellation: A grouping or pattern of stars
Declaration of Independence: A document declaring freedom of the USA from the British in 1776
denomination: Any one in a series of values
distinctive: Unusual, different, interesting
enduring: Long-lasting, permanent
equality: Same opportunities for all
exposition: A large public display or show
franking: Postage stamps (or some other markings) placed on mail to qualify it for delivery
freedom: The privilege or right to choose and act is available to all
forefathers: A predecessor, a person who has come before
indivisible: Not able to be separated or divided; permanent; unbreakable
inspire: To be stirred by emotions; to be influenced
justice: Fairness to all; moral rightness
landmark: A marker built to remember a person, place, or event
liberty: The right to act and choose freely
loyalty: Faithful, devoted to a government, group or person
memorial: A structure to honor a dead person or an event in history
monument: Something made to remember a person, place, or event
motto: A short saying or phrase to express a rule or belief
pledge: A formal or solemn promise, a guarantee
postmark: A mark placed on an envelope that tells when and from where a letter was sent
republic: A nation of elected representatives that act for the people who elected them
seal: A design stamped into paper to make a document official
souvenir: Something to keep as a reminder of a place, event, or person
symbol: An object or image that represents an idea
triumphantly: Celebrating a great success or victory
unity: Joining with others into a larger whole
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Who were these men? What role did each play in U.S. history?

[Image of postage stamps]
Credits: United States Postal Service Issues

Cover: Scott #4853 (2014) Star Spangled Banner (based off of a photograph by Gary Clark)


Page 3: Scott # 4024 (2008) — Ben Franklin, Postmaster (designed by Richard Sheaff)

Page 4: Scott # 2779 (1993) — Postal Museum/Ben Franklin (designed by Richard Schlecht)

Page 6: Scott # 1004 (1952) — Birth of Our Nation’s Flag (painting by Charles H. Weisgerber)
Scott # 1350 (1968) — First Stars and Stripes, Historic Flag series (designed by R.J. Jones, Leonard Buckley, & Howard Milner)

Page 7: Scott #1346 (1968) — Ft. McHenry Flag, Historic Flag series (designed by R.J. Jones, Leonard Buckley, & Howard Milner)
Scott # 4273 (2008) — American Flag & Clouds, Flags of Our Nation series (designed by Howard Paine)
Scott #2419 (1989) — Raising the Flag on the Moon, July 20, 1969 (designed by Christopher Calle)

Page 8: Scott #4921 (2014) — War of 1812 Bicentennial (designed by Greg Breeding)
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Page 9: Scott #1597 (1978) — Fort McHenry Flag with 15 stars (designed by V. Jack Ruther)

Page 11: Scott #2594 (1993) — Pledge of Allegiance (designed by Lou Nolan)

Page 12: Scott #3187f (1999) — School Desegregation, Celebrate the 1950s (designed by Howard Paine, illustrated by Dan Ellis)

Page 13: Scott #1596 (1975) — Eagle & Shield (designed by a private firm Kramer, Miller, Lomden & Glassman of Philadelphia)

Page 14: Scott #1622 (1975) — Flag over Independence Hall (designed by Melbourne Brindle)

Page 15: Scott #1691–1694 (1976) — Declaration of Independence (designed by Vincent Hoffman, based on a painting by John Trumbull)
Scott #1595 (1975) — Liberty Bell (designed by a private firm Kramer, Miller, Lomden & Glassman of Philadelphia)

Page 16: Scott #4125 (2008) — Liberty Bell (designed by Carl T. Herrman)

Page 17: Scott #1035 (1954) — Statue of Liberty (printed by Bureau of Engraving and Printing)
Scott #3452 (2001) — Statue of Liberty (designed by Derry Noyes)
Scott #4488 (2011) — Lady Liberty (designed by Terrence W. McCaffrey)

Page 18: Scott #990 (1950) — Executive Mansion
Scott #UX143 (1989) — The White House (front of a postal card)

Scott #2116 (1985) — Flag over Capitol Dome (designed by Frank Waslick)

Page 20: Scott #4651 (2012) — Cherry Blossoms & Washington Monument, Cherry Blossom Centennial series (designed by Paul Rogers)
Scott #4652 (2012) — Cherry Blossoms & Jefferson Memorial, Cherry Blossom Centennial series (designed by Paul Rogers)
Scott #4860 (2014) — Statue of Abraham Lincoln in Lincoln Memorial (photograph close-up of statue by sculptor Daniel Chester French)

Page 21: Scott #4982 (2015) — Lincoln Memorial at Cherry Blossom, Gifts of Friendship Joint Issue with Japan (designed by Paul Rogers, William Gicker, Junko Kaifuchi)
Scott #1510 (1973) — Jefferson Memorial (designed by Dean Ellis)
Symbols are all around us. We can see, hear, and experience them when we look at postage stamps. What are some symbols found on stamps that help to describe the United States of America? As you read these pages, you'll see objects, people, and events depicted in stamps that remind us of what is important to Americans.

**STAMPS TEACH PROGRAM**

Stamps and other philatelic materials provide artifacts for learning about the world in which we live. The Stamps Teach program of the American Philatelic Society provides information and resources to K – 12 educators in a wide variety of content areas. The goal of the Stamps Teach program is to develop and share standards-based learning activities that use philatelic artifacts as instructional tools.

*For more information: http://stamps.org/Stamps-Teach*