

Lesson Plan

Symbols All Around

Book: *My Country*

Series: Where I Live

Level: Scout

Objective

To help students understand the concept of symbolism and come up with their own examples of common symbols.

Supplies

- *My Country* book
- Whiteboard
- Paper and colored pencils

Before the Activity

Read *My Country* out loud to students. Write the following words and phrases on the whiteboard: *yes, no, keep going, turn around, wait*. Pass out paper and colored pencils to students.

Activity

Start by introducing the concept of symbolism to students. Explain that a symbol is an image that represents or stands for something else. Page 6 of *My Country* describes a symbol for the United States. It describes the American flag. Ask students the following questions:

- How many stars does the American flag have on it? (Answer: 50 stars)
- What do the stars stand for? (Answer: the 50 states)

The American flag stands for the United States and for the fifty states that make up the country. There are many other symbols that people see in their daily lives. For example, people often use the heart shape to represent love. Colors can be symbols as well. Ask students the following questions:

- What color is often used to stand for heat or hot temperatures? (Answer: red)
- What color is often used to stand for cold or cool temperatures? (Answer: blue)
- What color is often used to tell people they need to stop? (Answer: red)
- What color is often used to tell people they can go? (Answer: green)

Divide students into five groups. Give each group one of the terms on the whiteboard. In their groups, students should brainstorm a symbol to represent their word or phrase. Give students time to come up with their symbols and draw their symbols on their paper. Walk around and provide guidance to groups as needed. After several minutes, invite groups to present their symbols to the class.

Evaluation

Could students answer the questions about the use of colors as symbols? Could students explain their reasoning for the symbols they chose to represent their words or phrases?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.1, 1.2, 1.3), and speaking and listening standards, grade 1 (SL 1.1, 1.5).