## **United States Symbols**

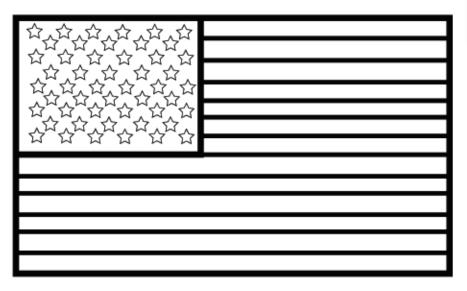
Below are some important icons in the U.S.A. Read the facts below and see why these icons are important to the nation.

## **Bald Eagle**

The bald eagle was chosen as the emblem of the United States in 1782 because of its long life, strength and majestic appearance. Above all, the eagle represents freedom. The eagle appears on many important documents and many gold and silver coins.







## The American Flag

The American flag is a symbol for unity and liberty. Many older versions of the flag had words like "hope" & "liberty" on them. In 1818 the flag with 13 stripes and stars for each state was created. The red stands for hardiness and valor, white symbolizes purity and innocence, while blue is the symbol for vigilance, perseverance and justice.

## What do those words mean?

Help decode the meanings of the Flag's colors with help of the word list below.

Hardiness - Being hardy means being strong or tough.

Justice - Justice has to do with fairness and the laws or rules.

Perseverance - To persevere means you keep going, stick with it and work hard!

Pure - To be pure can mean to be honest and true.

Valor - Having valor means having bravery or courage.

Vigilance - To be vigilant means to be aware or to pay attention.

What else do the colors red, blue and white make you think of? Draw your ideas below.